

# Disability Now

## This month

**7**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
Letter from America

**8**  
**COMMENT**  
Double discrimination

**9**  
**MOTORING**  
Conversion table

**11**  
**RELATIONSHIPS**  
Me and my mum

**12-13**  
**GARDENING**

**16**  
**PERSON TO PERSON**  
Profile: John Wall

**18**  
**CHECKOUT**  
Tools for gardening

**19-23**  
**CLASSIFIEDS**

Douglas Shapland, ex-chairman of The Spastics Society, has died. Obituary page 2.

## Social fund verdict

While the Social Fund is achieving its main aim of saving money, refusals are up, debt is rising, and millions of pounds are remaining unspent, according to a new survey.

The Fund has been criticised by elderly and disabled people in the past for failing to meet their needs, as *DN* readers will know.

But this survey, published in February by the National Audit Office (NAO), an independent Government watchdog, is the biggest and most official ever done.

The Social Fund was brought in in 1988 to save money. It replaced one-off payments as of right for items such as beds and cookers with discretionary loans and grants.

The old system cost an average £330m a year. In contrast, the Social Fund had a budget of only £206m for 1989-90. Yet despite a rise in the number of applications and refusals, £6.2m remained unspent.

*Continued on page 2*



Big Mac pack: Dawn Whitelaw, her children Gavin, 13, Kayleigh, 4, and Dale, 10, with step-dad Simon Smith. The children have each won McDonald's Child of Achievement awards. TOM BUIST

## Clothing workshops crisis

Clothing workshops, which supply severely disabled people with specially made clothes, are in crisis. Two years ago there were 24 of them. Now there are eleven. By the end of March three more could go or see their services seriously curtailed.

"Everybody's desperate for money and many workshops are living hand to mouth," said Phil Porter, who runs Disability Clothing Designs in Gloucester and is chairman of the Association of Clothing Workshops.

The problem became acute in 1988 when the Government replaced the Community Programme with Employment Training.

The workshops did not fit easily into the new scheme and lost their funding.

Forced to rely on raising money from local authorities, charities and businesses, they found it an uphill struggle. For example, Spinning Jenny in Belfast, found funding from the Belfast Action Team, but from April last year it has survived on small grants of £100 or so from local businesses. Now down from 5 full time staff to one full-time and one part-time, it faces closure at the end of March.

In Cleveland, CEDEMP Fashion Service, heavily subsidised by the charity CEDEMP Cleveland, is being reorganised into more of a business. While the fashion service will continue,

says executive director Vicky Andrew, home visits will cease and staff will be reduced from 12 to about seven. "We cannot afford to do bespoke clothing," she said.

The Clothing Workshops Association supported by MPs led by Alan Meale, Labour MP for Mansfield, has been campaigning for statutory funding from the Department of Health.

At a meeting on 29 January, they were encouraged to hear the parliamentary under secretary Stephen Dorrell acknowledge that there was a national need to make provision for severely disabled people, who cannot buy clothes in high street shops.

"For the minority of disabled

*Continued on page 3*

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# Chairman



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## Parents take council to court

Parents of pupils whose special school was burnt down are taking the fight to have it rebuilt all the way to the High Court.

The Elizabeth Fry school in Newham, London, was destroyed last February. Since then, its 65-70 pupils have been housed on a temporary site.

Newham Council wants to use the estimated £1.8m insurance money to help build a new £5m mainstream primary school for the younger pupils to go to, and adapt secondary schools for the older ones. It will take two years to build the new school.

But parents say the money

should be used to rebuild Elizabeth Fry now and claim Labour-controlled Newham is making a political point at the expense of their children's special needs.

Now they are taking the council to court.

Diane Stretch, whose daughter Michelle, 11, has oral, spatial, digital syndrome, says the council have only spent £322,000 on the temporary site. "They're trying to close the school down by the back door. We're saying they can't do that."

William Charlton's son David, 9, has speech and mobility problems and learning difficulties and

needs regular speech and physiotherapy. Mr Charlton says a speech therapist has visited the temporary school twice since last June but not to see David.

A spokesman for Newham confirmed most of the insurance money would be used to pay for the new North Beckton school, which will take up to two years to complete. It will have space for 35 disabled pupils and have a hydrotherapy pool and extra wide corridors for wheelchairs. Places will be found in schools in neighbouring boroughs for other children if necessary.

Parents fear the new school

*Continued on page 3*



## Cold get £1 rise

As temperatures plummeted to below zero across the country last month, the Government's attitude to cold weather payments melted.

Prime Minister John Major announced the payment would rise from £5 to £6, and the normal seven day qualifying period would be waived.

The rise is expected to be permanent, but the scrapping of the seven day rule, whereby temperatures must be freezing for seven consecutive days before payment is made, has not been made official yet.

At the height of the big freeze the Government-funded Winter Warmth Line, operated by Neighbourhood Energy Action, Help the Aged and Age Concern, was handling up to 750 calls a week.

Advertisements telling people to apply for the payments were placed in local newspapers when temperatures dropped to freezing and below.

To qualify you must be disabled, a pensioner, or a family with children under five, and be on income support.

You must have less than £1,000 savings if you are a pensioner, or £500 if you fall within the other groups.

The deadline for claims is three months after the first temperature drop.

To claim, contact your local social security office for more details. Winter Warmth Line, tel: 0800 289404.



Crossroads Care chairman Norman Banner (left) at the No. 10 prizegiving of the charity's literary contest with Norma Major, Heather Strudwick, sister of poetry prize winner Patricia Crittenden, and Simon Rae, of BBC radio's *Poetry Please*.

### Social Fund verdict

*Continued from page 1*

In 1989-90 there were 2.3m applications, up from 1.7m the previous year. An estimated 780,000 people were refused help, compared to 521,000 in 1988-89.

The NAO also noted the growing number of people with multiple loans, and how difficult it was to recover debts. In 1989-90, officers were trying to recover an average £5m a month.

The survey confirmed earlier reports of widespread inconsistencies in who gets help, for what, and when (*DN*, Nov 1990). Out of 42 local offices, only three could pay all applications, while 18 could meet only the highest priorities. Around 195,000 refusals were due to local security offices not having any money left.

Nearly one third of the budget goes on administering the fund, making it the most expensive benefit the Department of Social Security has.

The NAO recommends that the DSS should:

- achieve greater consistency in the treatment of priority groups
- monitor the quality of decision making by local officers
- make people more aware of their right to an independent review by Social Fund inspectors.

Sally Witcher, a campaign worker with Disability Alliance, commented: "It's what we've been saying since it began. But it's more difficult for 'the Government' to ignore this kind of report than anything the voluntary sector might produce."

"That's not to say the Government is going to take one bit of notice. This Government is notoriously difficult to embarrass."

Lesley Brown, senior policy officer at RADAR, was similarly unimpressed: "It bears out what we've all been saying about the basic injustice of it."

*The Social Fund, £6.80, National Audit Office, House of Commons Paper 190, HMSO.*

## Death of chairman

Douglas Shapland, chairman of The Spastics Society until last January, has died after a short illness. He was 61.

Valerie Lang writes: During his four years as Chairman, Douglas Shapland guided The Spastics Society through a period of profound change.

An early task was the appointment of a new senior management team, and the Society embarked upon the regionalisation of its services, a process that has now been almost completed.

He worked tirelessly to coordinate the work of volunteers and professional employees and travelled extensively to encourage individuals and groups to work in partnership.

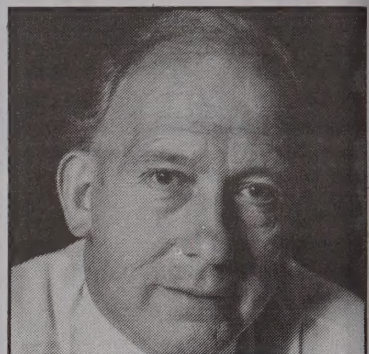
The contribution for which he will be particularly remembered is his work for the education of children with cerebral palsy. He was committed to the principles of early intervention and worked closely with parents and professionals to ensure that the Society's schools and colleges moved towards the use of Conductive Education for those children for whom it was appropriate. He travelled frequently to Budapest to negotiate with the Peto Institute and the Hungarian Government, and in May 1990 he concluded a four-year agreement for 12 trainees from the Society to train at the Institute.

Other innovations during his period as chairman were a major Care in the Community programme offering some 500 people the choice of alternative living styles, a national Cerebral Palsy Helpline and a scheme to "fast-track" management trainees with disabilities.

Almost his entire career was given over to caring. From the

Royal Navy he went in 1951 to South Molton, working for Devon County Council in a home for elderly people. Then, with Middlesex County Council, he had 10 years practical experience providing residential care for elderly and disabled people.

His responsibilities grew. He became chief welfare officer at the London Borough of Haringey, and then director of social



services (1970-84) – the first social services director in London (pre-Seebohm). He was responsible for the tremendous development of residential and field work services. He was also a president of the Guild of Directors of Social Services.

He came to influence a number of charitable organisations through appointments in his professional capacity. Habinteg Housing Association, formed to integrate people with disabilities into housing developments, had its first project in Haringey and Doug retained his place on its board for the rest of his life. He also became honorary secretary of Age Concern, Greater London, and later vice-chairman, resigning only in his last weeks.

Joyce Smith, a former chairman of The Spastics Society, invited him to join the Society's resources committee. He was elected to the Council in 1982, becoming honorary treasurer and ultimately chairman.

Douglas Shapland was always the most approachable of men, with time and sympathy for all members of the Society. He was tireless in his efforts to coordinate the work of volunteers and professional employees.

## ILF age limit goes

From 1 March the Independent Living Fund (ILF) will again consider applications from severely disabled people over 74.

The announcement reverses a previous decision which limited awards to people between 16 and 74 (*DN*, July 1990), and follows a doubling of the ILF's budget to £62m (*DN*, Dec 1990).

To qualify you must be:

- over 16 and severely disabled
- getting attendance allowance at the higher rate
- unable to pay for all the personal care you need
- living alone or with someone who is unable to provide all the care you need, or hoping to move out of hospital or residential care.

*The Independent Living Fund, PO Box 183, Nottingham NG8 3RD.*

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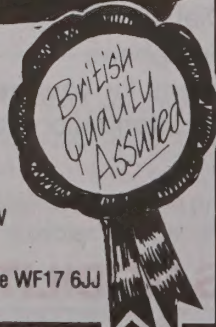


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# Segregation up

Children with special needs are being increasingly segregated into special schools in at least 15 local education authorities, the Centre for Studies on Integration revealed at its national conference in Leeds on 22 February.

In three of the authorities – Doncaster, Rotherham and St Helens – segregation increased by more than 25 per cent between 1982 and 1990.

CSIE founder Mark Vaughan called the figures “most disturbing” given the trend towards integration found in the other 44 LEAs. “These figures make a mockery of every child’s fundamental right to belong to their local, ordinary school,” said Mr Vaughan.

He said current progress to-

wards integration is “too slow”. A similar verdict was given in a report by the Association of Educational Psychologists, which said the 1981 Education Act had “done little to change the pattern of segregated provision.”

The AEP fears local management of schools may obstruct further integration. It is also worried that some local authorities see putting children on the same site without fully integrating them as a cheap option.

*Segregation Statistics 1982-1990, £1.50 from CSIE, 415 Edgware Road, London NW2 6NB, tel 081 452 8642.*

*Integration: Problems and Possibilities for Change, £3 from AEP, 3 Sunderland Road, Durham DH1 2LH, tel 091 386 9512.*



**Tea for two: The Duke of Westminster, President of The Spastics Society, met tenant Alan Blaylock in Blakes Court in Croydon last month. Four of the building’s 18 flats are occupied by disabled people and their partners. The project is part of the Society’s Care in the Community programme.** MICHELLE SMITH

## Clothing workshop crisis

*Continued from page 1*

people with figure problems, about 62,000 or one per cent of the disability population, it was a major commitment,” said Ginny Jenkins, clothing adviser at the Disabled Living Foundation. “Until now their needs had never been recognised. The Department had only recognised the needs of people with incontinence, behavioural problems or gross weight loss or gain.”

The minister promised action, but not until a Government-commissioned report on the clothing workshops, due early April, had been considered.

But in view of the immediate crisis facing some clothing workshops, he agreed to write a letter expressing his concern that any workshop should be forced to close before the results of the research were known, which could be used by the workshops to help raise temporary funds.

That letter was not sent to Alan Meale until 20 February, over three weeks later.

The delay has upset the Association. “We were assured it would get off quickly,” said secretary Hazel Howard.

“Weeks mean disaster,” said Agnes Junk of Spinning Jenny. “If we could have got that letter quickly and gone back to the Belfast Action Team they might have been swayed.”

The Association fears the Department of Health could have

second thoughts about treating clothing for disabled people as a health matter and may try to shift responsibility on to the Department of Social Security. “Once we get into the argument ‘it’s not us, it’s them,’ no one will accept responsibility and we lose all impetus,” said Phil Porter.

Along with core funding from central government, the Social Fund discretionary grant for clothing might be extended to cover people with severe clothing problems, and made mandatory, suggests Ginny Jenkins.

“Nobody is suggesting that clothes should be free,” she said, “but this group should have equal opportunities to have clothes at prices anyone could afford.”



**At the controls: Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott tries out the Permobil at Keep Able’s new “ability workroom” where disabled customers can try a unique range of aids and equipment. Current assessments cost £100 an hour.** DAVID MORRISON

## Parents sue council

*Continued from page 1*

will not be able to meet their children’s special needs. Ms Stretch said: “Michelle couldn’t integrate into an ordinary class. She’s just beginning to read and write.”

“We’re not against integration. We’re fighting the way they’re doing it. If any child is capable of integrating we like to do it by a gradual process that suits everyone concerned.”

Newham say the new school will have a “unit” that severely disabled children can use, but the policy will be to integrate wherever possible. Ms Stretch hit back: “That’s only a show. It’s not

complete integration.”

A Newham spokesman said: “We have a policy of integration and this is one way of doing it. It seems pointless to rebuild (Elizabeth Fry) when we have a brand new school being built. We’re making sure everyone gets the best we can offer and that they’re not deprived in any way.”

The case is being fought by Mrs Mary Doherty on behalf of her daughter Kelly, 12, who has epilepsy and perceptual learning difficulties, and the other parents, with the help of solicitor Jack Rabinowicz. It was adjourned in February and could be heard again this month.

# Council pulls out of centre

Manchester Social Services has provoked angry protests from 13 disabled people by deciding to stop funding their places at The Spastics Society’s Skills Development Centre at Blackley.

“We weren’t informed about it, nobody consulted us, and that’s unbelievable,” said Steve Cummings, one of the users.

The council has since adopted an equal opportunities statement on disability aimed at “increasing disabled people’s input into decision-making”, and enabling them “to gain power and control over their own lives.”

“The choice we have is either the council’s own Frank Taylor Centre, which is staffed by volunteers, or nothing,” said Mr Cummings. “I want to stay here, and so do the rest of us. The staff are great, we’re all settled, and we’ve got things rolling.”

The centre’s users have lobbied meetings of the social services committee, and invited councillors and officers to visit the centre. But, Mr Cummings claimed, “nobody turned up.”

Local MP Keith Bradley believes there is little hope of the council reversing the decision. He wants “absolute assurances” that adequate transport and the same quality of service will be provided at the new centre.

Manchester is the biggest purchaser of services from the Blackley centre. The withdrawal of its £50,000 contribution has cast a shadow over the future of the other 23 people who attend.

The social services did not respond despite five requests for a comment.

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## IN PARLIAMENT

## Disability allowances questioned

The Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance Bill introduces two new benefits for disabled people: the DLA combines attendance allowance and mobility allowance with new lower rates and the DWA is a top-up benefit to encourage disabled people to come off invalidity benefits and take up low paid work.

Few concrete changes were made to the Bill at committee stage. The forward test for DLA, dealing with the duration of a disability, was reduced from nine to six months, and although an amendment allowing claims for DLA to be backdated was defeated, Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott said he was considering sympathetically "a short-circuit process."

An amendment to the Local Government Finance Act, allowing people with severe mental impairment to carry over their exemption from poll tax if they move from SDA to DWA, was accepted in principle. Nicholas Scott acknowl-

edged that he was trying to find a way to extend mobility allowance to the 8,000-9,000 people with a mental handicap. He also agreed to try and devise a test to cover the difficulties of unfamiliar terrain in the mobility part of the test.

The DLA was heavily criticised in committee for failing to be a real living allowance because it does not cover the extra costs of disabled living. Alf Morris (Lab) introduced an



Dafydd Wigley: against test

amendment allowing DLA to cover extra heating, special diet, help with shopping, extra laundry and baths, help with communication and heavy wear and tear on clothing.

Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru) and Peter Thurnham (Con) supported the amendment, speaking from personal experience. But it was lost by the casting vote of the Chair.

Undaunted, Alf Morris raised the subject at report stage. He was supported by Sir David Price (Con), who pointed out that the Commons Social Services Select Committee report had found that the

Government had rested its case on the report of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) whose estimates of extra costs were not correct. He said more research and an extra cost of disabled living index was needed.

Nicholas Scott acknowledged: "We will need to flesh out in due course the findings of OPCS and not rest exclusively on them or treat them as Bible. There will be more



Dudley Fishburn: for nurses

research and an on-going survey on whether the benefits are meeting the needs of people who have them."

But he was convinced that

the OPCS had shown that AA and MA were targeting effectively those who had extra costs, so he rejected the amendment which was lost.

Dafydd Wigley moved amendments at committee stage to remove the controversial "disadvantage" test. (To qualify for DWA a person must declare "a physical or mental disability which puts him at a disadvantage in getting a job.")

"The qualification is likely to be psychologically negative and stigmatising, focusing on weaknesses rather than strengths," he said. Alf Morris saw the disadvantage statement as an "implicit admission" of discrimination, and he called for anti-discrimination legislation.

Nicholas Scott defended the test, saying it ensured that DWA went to those with significant disabilities or recovering from long-term illness or injury. The amendment was lost 10:5.

The subject surfaced again at report stage, when Michael

Meacher (Lab) asked if repeat claimants have to pass a functional test of disability after six months, why don't applicants who do not have the correct passporting benefits.

Nicholas Scott replied that that would undermine the simplicity of the benefit. Mr Meacher suspected the real problem was cost.

Pauline Rona Graham

## House points

- An NHS (Compensation) Bill introduced by Rosie Barnes (SDP) would have set up a medical injuries compensation board, but it was criticised as unworkable. Defeated 193:81

- Following Dudley Fishburn's (Con) Bill to give nurses limited authority to write prescriptions, the Government promised legislation "as soon as an opportunity arises."

- The Statutory Sick Pay Act comes into operation in April. It requires employers to pay 20 per cent of an employee's sick pay. (Previously the DSS paid it all.) The Lords feared that this would lead to more discrimination by employers against disabled people, but the amendment was lost

- John Hughes (Lab) has introduced a bill making it unlawful to discriminate against a person on grounds of their disability.

## Quotes of the month

"Disabled people are rejected for jobs because the managing director's dog does not like wheelchairs." John Hughes (Lab) introducing his anti-discrimination bill.

"If a concentration of negligence claims came to a health authority, it could cause financial difficulties. No one but a blind man could fail to recognise that." Health Under-Secretary Stephen Dorrell.

"The very title (DLA) is a cruel misnomer...it leaves a huge area of unmet need by recognising only the extra costs that arise from attendance or immobility." Alf Morris arguing for extra costs.

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## IN BRIEF

### Peto payout

The British Government has confirmed it is to pay £5m towards the building of an international centre for disabled children at the Peto Institute in Hungary (DN, Jan 1990).

The money, announced last month, is to be spread over four years, leading up to the opening of the centre in 1994.

The new centre will take 31 British children a year and 22 trainees for four-year courses.

### Red noses run riot

This year's Red Nose Day is on 15 March.

The fund-raisers will be targeting "empowering" projects for 16-25 year old disabled people, such as advocacy and skills training. Some money may go to disabled casualties of the Gulf war.

### Cambridge student hall

Wheelchair users and disabled people who want to study at Cambridge University now have an adapted hall of residence, Bridget's, with eight ground floor rooms and four rooms for carers.

The hall, paid for by the Shaftesbury Society, will be shared with the Anglia College of Higher Education.

Bridget's, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, tel: (0223) 354312.

### "Minority" media guide

Employers who want to recruit disabled people can now get a guide to disability newspapers and magazines that take advertisements. *The Minority Media Guide - 1990* includes prices, circulation and deadlines.

£75, Media Dept, Austin Knight Advertising, tel: 071 437 9261

### Benefits correction

In "Backdated benefits bonanza" (DN February), it was not made clear that the disabled people eligible for backdated benefits are those with a mental handicap. Our apologies to people whose hopes were raised in vain.



Wheelchair turf-cutter Mrs Sue Cheater launches an £80,000 garden project for disabled and visually impaired people in Horsham, Sussex, funded by the Sun Alliance Group and Horsham District Council.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY TIMES

## Black people humiliated

Black people face humiliation and discrimination when claiming social security benefits, according to a new report from the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

They are likely to experience "lengthy delays, wrongful refusals, incorrect payments and poor communication." The Social Fund is particularly

criticised for having written material in English only.

NACAB says the new Social Security Benefits Agency should have a systematic approach to service delivery for black claimants.

Benefits should be reviewed to remove discrimination, and more leaflets and interpreters provided.

Barriers to Benefit, £5, NACAB, tel: 071-833 2181

### Do it for DN!

Are you competing in the London Marathon this year? If so, why not tell the rest of the world about YOUR newspaper by wearing a DN tee-shirt to flash in front of the TV cameras? And if you want to raise money for DN too, so much the better! Interested? Ring Tracy Scollin on 071 636 5020 ext 245.

## Get to work - but not until 1992

Disabled people should be provided with accessible transport to help them get to work, according to a new European Commission proposal. It gives the Government until the end of 1992 to come up with an action plan.

However, the Government may obstruct the proposal because it forms part of the Social Charter.

Britain has refused to recognise this, arguing that such arrangements should be left to national governments.

"There is no point in giving the disabled access to normal jobs unless they can actually get to their place of work," the Commission says. It requires both public and employers'

own transport services to be made safe for all "workers with reduced mobility."

The Commission stops short of demanding that all means of transport should be made accessible.

It asks only that disabled workers should be able to travel safely, through any combination of adaptations to vehicles, external aids, and personal help from trained staff.

As an extension to health and safety legislation, the proposal's aims therefore differ widely from the civil rights approach of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which says all new public vehicles in the USA should be made accessible.

## First key of the door

Hundreds of people with cerebral palsy can look forward to their first door key thanks to a new £25m partnership between The Spastics Society and North Housing.

As part of the "1st Key" care in the community programme, 500 people currently living in 14 residential centres run by The Spastics Society will be able to move out into the community.

Up to 240 homes are to be built on 40 sites in places as far apart as Derbyshire and Dorset.

Work will begin on the first

fully accessible bungalows later this year and the programme will take five years to complete.

North Housing, who will pay the £25m cost of the development, will own and maintain the buildings.

The Society will provide and pay for specialist care and support for residents and manage the staff.

Ken Young, chief executive of The Society, said: "This is an exciting scheme which will drastically alter how we have operated in the past and it will certainly enhance the quality of life for people in our care."

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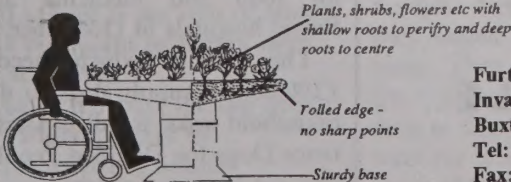
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## Hopes overdose on "wonder drug"

People with Alzheimer's disease and their relatives had their hopes of a breakthrough dashed last month after reports of a new drug were criticised as "seriously misleading" by the US Government.

But one British doctor claims important discoveries have been made which can be built upon.

Twenty per cent of people over 80 have Alzheimer's. There is no cure.

Four years ago the *New England Journal of Medicine* carried the results of a study into a drug called THA, known as Cognex in Britain. Suggestions that THA could tackle the dementia symptoms of Alzheimer's led to a flood of demands for it.

Now the US Food and Drugs Administration says the study's findings were seriously



PATRICK BAGLEE

misleading. It concluded: "Setting in motion premature requests for wide distribution of the drug, it caused those who care for the victims of

Alzheimer's disease needless anguish, leading them to believe their loved ones were being denied a drug of established efficacy and value."

But one British researcher claims all is not lost.

Professor Raymond Levy, chair of old age psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, is doing another survey which is showing promising results. He told *The Guardian*: "We don't know if it can help people who are severely affected. There are lots of ifs and buts. However,

in a very selected group of patients, in the very early stages without other complications, it looks as though there may be something in it."

Another team of researchers in the US are also doing a study of the drug.

## New lungs give old ones a breather

A new type of artificial lung was used in Britain for the first time in January.

The device is only designed for short term use and cannot be used to help people with chronic lung disorders. But the breakthrough will help doctors searching for such devices.

It is already used in America to give patients' lungs time to recover after lung damage. The longest anyone has used it for is 19 days.

Known as Ivox, the "lung" was used by doctors at St George's Hospital in London on a 70 year old man who became seriously ill from adult respiratory distress syndrome following surgery.

The Ivox, which costs around £9,000, is made up of a catheter and a control unit. The control unit fills the catheter with oxygen. This is threaded into the vena cava, the vein that brings de-oxygenated blood to the heart. Oxygen is sent into the blood and carbon-dioxide exchanged.

Dr David Bennett, intensive care physician at St George's Hospital in Tooting, emphasised that the device can only be used short term.

And although doctors on the trail of a more permanent artificial lung could learn from it, such a device could be at least three years away.

### Corrections

In "Rights to a Roof" (DN January), it was reported that Ann Macfarlane was dismayed that only the Spinal Injuries Association had paid for disabled people to attend the housing conference. In fact, other organisations did pay, such as the King's Fund Centre, Esso and IBM (UK) Ltd. We apologise for any embarrassment caused.

For the Belvoir infra-red environment control system supplied by Bickerstaff Electronics (see Microtech, Feb) tel: (0942) 216747.

For more information on British Telecom's *Everyday* video for disabled people tel: 0345 581456.

Lena Rozova, not Lena Olin, helped launch the Lena Appeal for food and medicine for Soviet hospitals in December.

The charity which needs £100,000 to supply dogs to do household tasks is called Assistance Dogs for Disabled People and not Partners in Action.

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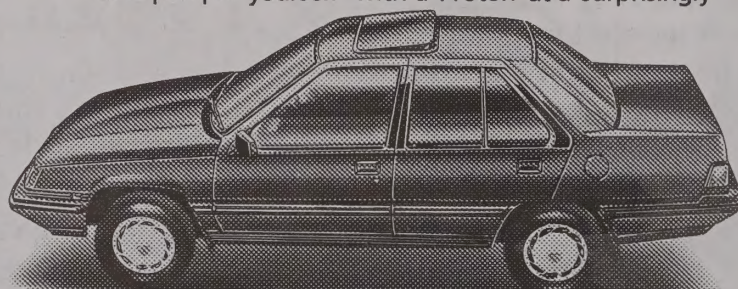
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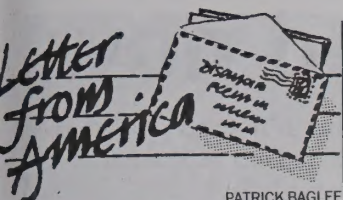


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PATRICK BAGLEE

# Action day in Atlanta

Diane Coleman reports on ADA, a new Act, civil rights action and The Mouth



Dear Friends and Activists,  
Thank you to the people who wrote to me after my August letter. I hope each of you have received my replies. Unfortunately, I discovered too late that \$0.45 will carry only one-half ounce! I must congratulate you on the "three and a half thousand disabled people [who] took to the streets last month to demand a proper income" (DN December.)

The organisers expressed disappointment in the turnout, saying they had hoped for 5,000, but we had fewer than 1,000 in our Wheels of Justice march on Washington, DC in support of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) last spring. The march was formally endorsed by 30 disability-related organisations, many of them with huge national memberships, and there was two month's advance notice. Of course, we have greater distance and transportation barriers, but I was still disappointed at our turnout.

One example of progress was achieved last October on behalf of our estimated 24 million citizens who are deaf or hearing-impaired: a new law called the Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990.

As of 1 July 1993, new television sets with 13in or larger screens sold in the US must contain the circuitry necessary to display closed-captioning of the sound portion of programmes. Currently, people must buy a separate decoder to display closed-captions, which is too expensive for many. It was found that the costs would be nominal" (\$3 to \$10 per television) if the circuitry was added at the point of manufacture.

Ironically, I was not able to obtain the details of this bill from my local League for the Hearing-Impaired, whose staff thought the new requirement must be part of the ADA. In the US, our entire movement suffers from this lack of adequate communication and networking. How do British groups manage??

Many of you have read about the ADA's provisions regarding access to new or redesigned public buildings. The US Government has now proposed rules to take effect from January 1992. For example, wheelchair users must have access to all checkout aisles in supermarkets and at least 5 per cent of tables at a restaurant or library must be accessible..

Unfortunately, the law does not address access to apartments and houses.

In 1988, Congress passed

the Fair Housing Amendments Act, which generally requires access to newly constructed apartment buildings. But some of the more detailed guidelines under the law have not been determined by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development, although they were due to be published last autumn at the latest.

Several disability rights groups, especially Concrete Change, have been pushing for strong guidelines, but weaker

these tests to see what I should be. It wasn't in the script to either ask me or look at the history of my life." (From Billy Golfus, "Brian Damaged Blues, Part IV".)

I would be very interested in hearing how disabled people, families and other non-disabled supporters and professionals in the UK relate to each other and see their roles in the advancement of disability rights.

One reason for the delay



October march to the Federal Building in Atlanta. TOM OLIN

versions have been supported by a coalition of the building industry and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

Concrete Change is also working to achieve basic access in new houses. They say this "basic access" means that every new house will have at least one no-step entrance and all doors will be at least 32in wide. There is no federal (Central Government) law covering access to single-family dwellings, but Concrete Change is making headway at the local level.

Over the last few months, many disabled people (we often refer to ourselves as "consumers", as opposed to "patients" or "clients") have been heartened by a new publication from the community of people with head injuries: *The Mouth (This Brain Has a Mouth)*. Any page will reveal the gritty and profound truth it tells:

"I turned to Jerry Waldman, a therapist I'd known for a couple of decades, for help. He was, after all, a "professional". Even after knowing me so long, he was amazingly insensitive... He sent me to the ... Vocational Service. Let me tell you how they helped. They gave me tests. They love them tests. They probably give each other tests to figure out what they want for lunch. And it's like we're waiting for the results of

since my last letter for DN has been the start of ADAPT's campaign for attendant services ("carers"). My strongest commitment is my work as an organiser with the American Disabled for Attendant Programmes Today, which I described in my last letter.

Last October ADAPT members came to Atlanta from 22 states, representing groups in 35 US cities, to commence our national effort.

While many groups have won more government-supported attendant services locally, this was the first time that a national "civil rights" activist group had taken on the issue. ADAPT engages in non-violent civil disobedience to dramatize and bring to public attention the moral conflicts inherent in our system.

An estimated 7.7 million people in the US need assistance in one or more activities of daily living, but most can only obtain this assistance by remaining dependent on the charity of family and friends or going into an institution.

The federal government has left it up to each state to decide whether and to what degree it will fund attendant services. While some states have developed widely available attendant service programmes, others have only tiny pilot programmes and

some offer nothing at all.

In contrast, the federal government requires that each state finance "care" in nursing homes and other institutions, which have powerful and well-funded lobbyists to influence legislators and government officials. I would like to know much more about the situation elsewhere.

Since most people are completely unaware that there is a problem and that a solution is possible which supports the freedom and dignity of older and disabled people, our first job is to get publicity on the issue.

In Atlanta, Georgia we (a) sat in at the administration building of the college attended and later headed by US Secretary of Health & Human Services Louis Sullivan, (b) shut down the state arm of the nursing home lobbyists, and (c) surrounded and closed down the Federal Building. Sixty-four of us were arrested in the last action.

Then, on Martin Luther King's birthday, 15 January, ADAPT declared "Freedom Day", and activists in 24 cities demonstrated simultaneously at government and lobbyist offices for a national consumer-controlled attendant services policy.

Then, a week later, ten of us in Tennessee managed to meet Secretary Sullivan. I spoke for the group, saying that a "state's rights" policy on attendant services is no more

acceptable than a "state's rights" policy on slavery. This was ADAPT's first personal encounter with an official who has the power to change policy.

These efforts have drawn attention to the need for attendant services in many groups. I've recently heard that two large conferences are planned in Nashville, Tennessee, alone, and was encouraged when a professional said that ADAPT is now "leading the charge" on an issue that so many have worked for for so long. He said that consumers can have much more credibility than parents and professionals, some of whom still support institutional alternatives. He said he feels certain that we will win.

I only wish it were as easy to convince and empower more of our fellow consumers to act for positive change as well.

Until next time, yours for a more just society,

*Diane Coleman*

Concrete Change (organiser Eleanor Smith), 1371 Metropolitan Avenue SE, Atlanta, Georgia 30316. The Mouth (Editor is Ed the Hothead), 61 Brighton Street, Rochester, New York 14607. Diane Coleman has a new address: 1478 Stayton Road, Cumberland Furnace, TN 37051. She welcomes letters.

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# Double discrimination must be faced now

says Peter McDonald

I came to England in the early 1970s, during the *Love Thy Neighbour* era of British television, when calling people "sambo", "nig-nog" or "white honkey" was considered a good thing for a hit comedy show, because things done in bad taste could be radical, interesting and funny.

As a child with cerebral palsy, I was pre-occupied with surviving in a special school. Jamaica often seemed a very long way from my classroom and from my experience of disability. Day by day my awareness of race came second to my awareness of disability, because it seemed the most practical way to deal with life.

I was struggling to find my own identity. Or at least a positive image of myself, instead of the many negative self-images that I was being asked to choose from.

The attitude of my teachers, family and friends could be summed up as "disabled, first and foremost."

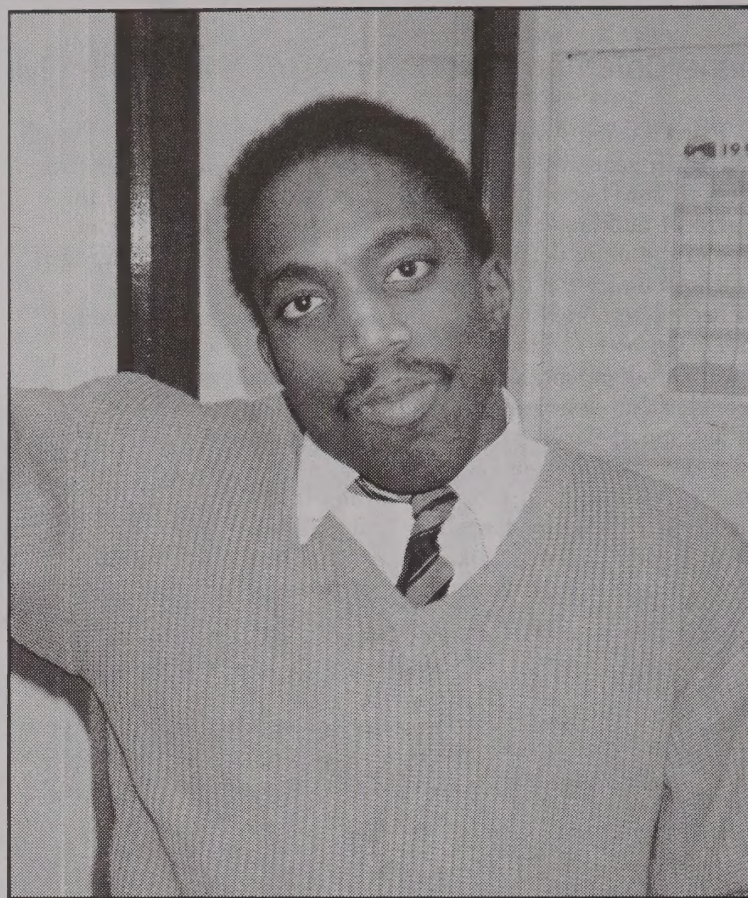
Almost all my teachers and tutors were white. Some of them did not want to risk offending anyone, or they did not think of race as the most important issue in special

schools, where only a few pupils were from ethnic minorities. But my classmates and I were just as likely to swap *Love Thy Neighbour* type jokes as anyone else, and to think of it as nothing more than a good laugh.

Whenever the subject of race came up at home, someone would remind me that as a black person who was also disabled, my chances of achieving anything in life were probably less than zero. It was my "destiny" to suffer twice as much discrimination and to miss twice as many opportunities as the person who is "only" black, or "only" disabled. When I asked for advice, what I generally got was: "Work hard, keep your head low, and don't argue with anyone."

This is not, I suggest, the most useful advice to someone who is struggling to work out what kind of person they are and what kind of person they really want to be.

I can understand the reaction of my school friends, because it was partly a reflection of society at large. I can understand the reaction of my family: to fight for the rights of black people is one thing; to fight for the rights of



Peter McDonald: "Respect each other, and ourselves."

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY

disabled people, something else. There is not enough time and energy to fight two different wars. I can understand these attitudes, but I cannot agree with them.

They come from a society that is reluctant to acknowledge almost any kind of prejudice.

Cultures, religions and races all have much to contribute to any society and much to learn from each other. The same applies to people with disabilities. It has been said many times and should be obvious to many people. But sometimes I wonder if anything is really obvious.

It is 1991 already, and there is no specific legislation to safeguard the rights of people with disabilities in Britain. America has it (Americans with Disabilities Act 1990) and most of Europe will have it (in theory) after 1992.

Meanwhile, the British Government has done little to acknowledge the links between racial prejudice and prejudice against disabled people, let alone take action. (Mind you, most governments seem to have a hard time taking any kind of prejudice seriously. Do we need a civil rights movement every time we need some civil rights?)

If the interests of people with disabilities are generally ignored or devalued by wider society, how much harder do disabled people from ethnic minorities have to work to have their own particular needs taken seriously?

But it's more than "wants and needs." People from ethnic minorities, like people with disabilities, have talents and achievements that should be recognised and promoted. As an Asian researcher told me: "We're being asked to prove things that we've known for a long time."

I know five people who are doing research on the experiences of disabled people from ethnic minorities - few

enough research projects given the number of issues, but it is growing all the time.

To say there are common links between racial prejudice, sexism and prejudice against disabled people is to open a Pandora's Box that many people still wish had never been found. It's too late to close the box and it's time we had the courage to look inside.

The King's Fund Centre, which produced the report *Double Discrimination* in December last year, and GLAD (Greater London Association for Disabled People) are involved in research and practical initiatives on race and disability. Some self-help groups exist. But I suspect they run on sheer guts and enthusiasm, probably lacking both money and publicity.

A handful of organisations have told me they are either "looking into" race and disability, or "reviewing policy", or already have a long-term commitment to "equal opportunities" - whatever that is.

When I spoke to the Commission for Racial Equality in December, I was

**"Whenever the subject of race came up at home, someone would remind me that as a black person who was also disabled, my chances of achieving anything in life were probably less than zero."**

told that they would love to do something on race and disability, but they can't, because they have neither the money nor the staff.

Disabled people from ethnic minorities will have to compete as hard for time and money as anyone else. Probably harder. But I think it's largely up to disabled people in ethnic minorities to make the move. They must decide where to compete, how to compete, and where to go from here.

I don't know what the solutions are. But if we don't take these issues seriously now, the next generation will accuse us of ignorance and hypocrisy.

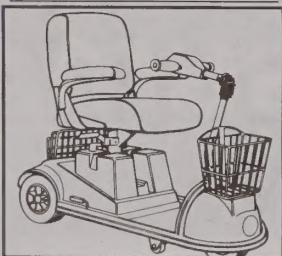
My hope is that we do not create more barriers between people, but instead create channels for open and honest communication, so that we learn to respect each other, and ourselves.

*Peter McDonald is a research associate at The Spastics Society. He will chair a seminar on race and disability at Bristol Polytechnic on 30 April. Report available later. Meanwhile, your comments are welcome.*

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Car Chair's Statesman: "nice air of spaciousness"



Brotherwood Prairie: "most socially acceptable"



Universal Mobility's Discovery: "a quality ride"

# Which is best for wheelchair passengers?

David Griffiths, *DN's* motoring correspondent, takes an unaccustomed back seat to compare three conversions

Choosing a car is very much like buying a coat or a pair of shoes. You need to try it first. But passengers rarely get the chance, even when the vehicle is specially modified to suit a wheelchair passenger.

Mistakes are often costly if not impossible to rectify, so it is vital to have some idea of the potential of different vehicles.

Last month I selected three of the most promising conversions on the market and put them through their paces over an identical course. It included a steep ascent and descent, an undulating class B road with accompanying sharp depressions and bends, some very rough potholed lanes, several adverse cambers and a stretch of smooth trunk road.

I purposely chose the most uncomfortable wheelchair I could find and dispensed with a cushion, putting the needs of research before my "nethers", so to speak.

Here are my findings.

## The Discovery

Universal Mobility's Discovery, based on a Vauxhall/Bedford Astramax van, has large sliding windows, a ramp and Dunlop air suspension. The many car-like attributes and quality conversion belie its humble origins.

Access is via a fold-down, one-piece ramp, with some inclination of the floor and the air suspension acting as a lowering unit when loading. The system operates so smoothly and silently that it is virtually undetectable when sitting in the vehicle.

The original double doors are used, but the stays on the doors can prove inadequate in really strong winds.

On the road, the immediate impression was of a quality ride. A smooth, bump-free passage plus automatic transmission offered superb comfort. Only really large potholes made themselves known, producing a noticeable thud from below, but I never felt the shocks.

One of the main problems with this type of conversion is that a wheelchair-passenger travelling in the rear can feel isolated: sitting higher than the

driver and further back makes conversation except at low speeds very difficult.

Universal Mobility has made a brave attempt to overcome this by fitting a small, side-facing seat at rear-passenger level behind the driver, and a seat on the other side, facing forward, on a level with the standard front passenger seat. It works well enough, although on a longer journey it could prove a little tiring.

Noise level in the Astramax was lower than expected. The quality of finish was excellent (except for small side pockets which did not seem to match up with the rest of the vehicle). The big tinted side windows offered excellent vision. A good space between the rear doors and the back of the passenger's head made me feel more secure should someone attempt to hang on the rear bumper.

Forward vision may not be so good for some people, depending on your height, and I would have liked a wiper as standard on the upper screen.

Externally, Discovery shows its parentage strongly and there is no getting away from the "ice-cream van" impression.

## Statesman

The Statesman from Car Chair Ltd also has a Vauxhall parentage, the Astra Estate, which offers four side doors with greater versatility and a wider range of options.

Suspension can be lowered for access which is via a short ramp with a top-hinged, single-piece door, rising gently on gas struts and giving some weather protection for the helper.

Once inside, you notice the additional length, which gives a nice air of spaciousness. But sitting further away from the driver makes conversation more difficult and at over 40mph we had to shout.

The Statesman retains the normal Vauxhall suspension, giving a firm, comfortable ride on all but the worst surfaces, but on these the shocks were felt and the vehicle rolled and pitched somewhat.

Side vision is not so good: the original Astra windows lack depth, and the horizontal pil-

lars intrude at eye-level unless you are tall enough to see over them through the upper windows. Vision ahead is very good, however, and the internal detailing and trim is of a high quality, with a small storage area in the rear for oddments.

All the passenger seats face forwards, the rear pair narrower to allow for wheelchair footplates, but they are more than adequate for most people and with each having its own door access is excellent.

I felt too near the rear doors for comfort, and rather isolated as well, although rear-seat passengers would obviously help.

Externally, the extra roofline is taken up from the front screen in a smooth curve that enhances overall appearance.

## Brotherwood Prairie

With its superb finish and good looks, the Brotherwood Prairie has earned a reputation for being the Rolls Royce of conversions. Prairie users are in the main convinced that nothing else will do and, despite the high cost, the Prairie has continued to sell steadily.

In the second generation Nissan Prairie, a central door pillar appeared and although the new vehicle is better looking it has lost much of its versatility - hence the continued demand for new conversions of second-hand models.

Rod Brotherwood's approach to the access problem was to carve out the rear end and lower the centre floor section, a not inconsiderable engineering job which contributes to the cost, but it does put the wheelchair user level with his fellows while minimising roof-extension.

Externally, then, the Brotherwood Prairie appears little changed, with the streamlined Nissan bodywork largely unaltered, blending into the general traffic.

Internally, you feel part of everything, including the conversation, and vision is as good as for your fellow passengers.

Two rear passenger seats set alongside the wheelchair user are of necessity narrow, best described as "occasional" or for children.

The Prairie offers a very quiet, refined ride, taking pot-holes in its stride. But its soft rear suspension could be the undoing of those prone to car-sickness.

## Summary

All three vehicles are near the upper end of the rear access vehicle market. Both Vauxhall and the Nissan Prairie are very reliable.

Discovery has the edge where ride is concerned, but the Brotherwood Prairie is the most socially acceptable. The Statesman is a very nice compromise offering a wide range of options and good accommodation within the confines of an affordable base vehicle.

None of the vehicles can be said to be bad, nor is the quality of their workmanship. But each has its plus and minus points, highlighting just how important it is for disabled people to try different machines,

preferably with their family and in similar conditions.

None of the vehicles is suitable for two wheelchair users, but the automatic transmission options lend themselves to a family where the driver has a walking disability or lower limb deficiency.

## Options

**Discovery:** 1.4 or 1.6 litre petrol engines, 1.7 diesel. Automatic transmission on 1.6 petrol only. From £12,841 (no VAT included in prices). Universal Mobility Ltd, tel: (0293) 871019. or (0924) 451971.

**Statesman:** As above, plus power steering, tilting steering column, powered front windows, metallic paint. From £14,918. Car Chair Ltd, tel: (0323) 840283.

**Brotherwood Prairie:** 1.8 or 2.0 litre petrol engines. Power steering, automatic transmission, metallic paint. From £17,993. Brotherwood Automobility Ltd, tel: (0935) 872603.

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# Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

## Gulf war casualties

We were interested to read your recent report (*DN* February) on the likely effect of the Gulf War and the potential demand on services for people with disabilities which may result.

We certainly share the concern of others and agree that we should be making plans sooner rather than later. The Disabled Living Foundation believes that good information will be crucial to ensuring that disabled people take up the services which will assist them.

Many of your readers will be aware of DLF's information resources about equipment and other daily living resources and services. We hope that disabled people will be encouraged to make full use of our services and especially that the service hospitals will ensure that casualties of the war receive the proper advice and information.

**Paul Brearley**

Director  
Disabled Living Foundation  
380-384 Harrow Road  
London W9 2HU

## Motability achievements

I am writing with regard to the article which appeared in the January 1991 edition of *Disability Now* ("Motor charity slammed") and the letter from Mr Irwin-Brown in your last edition.

Dealing with the first article, I would like to respond as follows.

There are currently nearly 100,000 disabled people with vehicles obtained through Motability's contract hire and hire purchase schemes. Most will require replacement vehicles over the next three years and it is essential that Motability has sufficient charitable funds to help them obtain these vehicles and so

retain their mobility. That is why the value of the 10th Anniversary Trust Fund is being safeguarded and a reserve being created so that this known future demand can be met.

When the monies were pledged to the 10th Anniversary Trust in 1988, it was announced in Parliament that this would enable Motability to increase its grant giving capacity five fold and this it will have achieved in the past year.

In 1988 the number of renewals was averaging 300 per month; with the abolition of car tax in 1989 on vehicles leased to disabled people, the scheme has grown tremendously with the number of renewals anticipated in 1992-3 at 3,000 per month - a tenfold increase in under five years.

Motability has a moral commitment to keep all disabled people who are presently mobile on the road when their leases come up for renewal.

Notwithstanding this commitment which Motability has to its existing customers, no new customer who is eligible to use the scheme and needs financial assistance is turned away. In the current year all but a few cases (three or four per month) have been offered sufficient help to obtain a suitable vehicle. This has included some cases which require expensive adapted vehicles.

The £1 million per annum for the next three years which Government has generously agreed to provide from April 1991 will enable Motability to extend this help to many more severely disabled people. The provision of the £1 million per annum is a recognition that the 10th Anniversary Trust is needed in the main to cope

with the renewal problem.

The availability of help from Motability's charitable fund is publicised in the leaflets issued by Motability about the scheme. Additional information about the funds that will be available from next April is being prepared and will be included.

The trustees of the Anniversary Trust believe in taking a responsible attitude towards this Trust's funds thus ensuring that as many disabled people as possible can be helped to achieve and retain mobility.

I would like to comment on Mr Irwin-Brown's letter.

Motability's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 1990 have first to be approved by our Annual General Meeting which took place in December 1990. The report would not therefore be available until early in 1991.

Motability has by far the largest contract hire fleet in the UK and it was wholly appropriate that Motability should take the lead in persuading organisations and individual motorists to switch to lead-free petrol.

The Motability fleet accounts for over 2 per cent of new UK registrations and in converting its own fleet, wherever possible, to leadfree operation Motability was saving the disabled motorist car running costs.

The campaign had all political party support and at its conclusion sales of unleaded petrol had risen from 5 per cent to 25 per cent of total sales with unleaded petrol available on the majority of petrol station forecourts.

The cost of the campaign was met fully from donations made specifically for that purpose by various large corporations. None of Motability's charitable or other funds were involved.

Motability's charitable fund raising is completely separate from the administration expenses which are met from a grant from DSS.

Motability was created to help disabled people in receipt of mobility allowance use their allowance to achieve mobility.

Motability brings together, perhaps uniquely, contributions from Government, industry, commerce and private individuals for the benefit of disabled people. Our success can be measured by the fact that we have helped provide over 200,000 vehicles, including 45,000 in the past year.

We are rightfully proud of our achievements in meeting the needs of so many disabled people and intend to continue to expand and improve our service in the future.

**Lord Sterling of Plaistow**  
Vice-chairman  
Motability,  
London SW1

## My disability concern

I am sorry that there was a misunderstanding in an otherwise excellent article (*DN* January).

My statement, "I don't consider disability to be anything to do with me at all" was not related to other people but to myself. I was hampered by hearing loss in my early years. The excellence of my hearing aids now make disability no part of me.

My work for the disabled is not for myself but for others.  
**Emma Nicholson MP**  
House of Commons

## Children in Need

On *Same Difference* (Channel 4) I asserted that I did not watch the current *Children in Need* as a "deliberate political act." It was not dragged out of me as your column implies.

Further, the programme was a discussion of charity fund raising programmes in general and not just one particular *Children in Need*.

Hence, to take one remark out of context and to use it to

attempt to discredit a whole campaign is totally illegitimate.

I do not need to watch every single pornographic film to know that pornography is oppressive to women. I do not need to watch every second of *Children in Need* (or other such televisual garbage) to know that such programmes are oppressive to disabled people.

If *Disability Now* is to live up to its claims to be "Britain's leading disability newspaper", it should stop using snide and inaccurate comments to attempt to discredit legitimate campaigns organised by disabled people.

**Mike Oliver**  
Chatham, Kent

## Charging for services

The Spastics Society's campaigns department has received a number of enquiries about the legality of Kent social services department charging for services (see *DN* February).

Unfortunately social services departments do have the right to charge for services under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the more recent Disabled Persons Act. They do not, however, have the right to refuse to provide a service they agree is necessary simply on the grounds that the disabled person cannot afford it. It is difficult to see how Kent imagines that a disabled person on income support is in a position to afford an extra £3.50 a week for services that until now have been provided free of charge.

What is most controversial about the Kent arrangement is the imposition of a tariff across the board without reference to an individual's financial circumstances.

**Brian Lamb**  
Campaigns and parliamentary officer  
The Spastics Society  
London W1

## Gift rapping

Kylie Minogue fans all over the country may soon be trading in their record collections for a new foot-tapper from the Action Asthma campaign.

The Oxygen Molecule Rap comes on a tape giving advice to teenagers with asthma.

Watch out for it on *Top of the Pops*!

## Troubleshooters

As you watch khaki-clad correspondents reporting from the Gulf War, spare a thought for the *DN* team.

One member was asked by a life insurance salesman if her *DN* journalism took her into the world's "trouble spots" on a regular basis.

Not wanting to be refused cover, she didn't admit she was a veteran of the Naidex coffee queues and the Oxford Street transport demos. They wouldn't understand ...

sic

## Quids in

"What would happen in your home if you or your partner were ill or became disabled and you could not do the domestic chores?"

This was the anxious plea put by the *Daily Mail* in an article on insurance at the end of January. Apparently, it costs at least £500 a week to hire a housekeeper, chauffeur, nanny, cleaning lady and gardener to look after a home.

Where do they get these figures from?

According to Disability Alliance, a single man aged 30-40 who became disabled could expect an income of around £130 a week tops.

Invoices please for the £370 difference to Mr John Major, 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

**CHEST PROBLEMS, BACK PROBLEMS, OCCASIONALLY ILL, OR BEDRIDDEN.**  
**DO YOU SUFFER FROM ASTHMA, BAD BACK OR CHEST PROBLEMS?**  
**LET US HELP YOU FIND RELIEF AND COMFORT.**



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DN3

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It is Christmas Eve 1990 and I'm sitting waiting for tomorrow, having written and heard from so many friends from far and near. I am looking forward to spending Christmas Day with my dear friends who live just down the road, and I have been thanking God for the way I live today on my own here in Milton Keynes.

The January *DN* reminds me that it is now ten years since the International Year of Disabled People. 1981 was a landmark year for me and my mother too, for it was then that I began the process that was to see me moving away from her and into a home of my own.

The story starts in 1977. Two operations on my right hip had gone drastically wrong and I was left with a knee that wouldn't straighten out. I could just about transfer myself from one chair to another, into the car and bed, and on to the toilet.

But by 1981 I was beginning to pick up the pieces with my mother's help. (She was nearly 74 and had looked after me single-handed through those horrific years.)

The pain had virtually gone, and my hands had become a lot steadier although I couldn't use the two of them together. Also, a lifetime's ambition to help teach children to read two days a week came true.

Mother and I started to



Marjorie can just relax in her own conservatory. CHARLIE WOODING

## Independence for me and mum

Relationships(2): Marjorie Chappell moves out

consider my future. What was I going to do if mother was ill or dropped dead? I was terrified that I would be put into care to sit and do nothing.

I had always kept as far away from the kitchen as possible. I had never done any cooking or made a cup of tea and hot meals just appeared.

I tried to discuss my future with social workers but they wouldn't listen to any of my suggestions. As far as they were concerned the only help they could give us was "care."

On a visit to Odstock Hospital in Salisbury, mother and I discovered a "training bungalow" run by occupational

therapists. I don't know why, but I had this sudden urge to have a go. From that point on my whole life changed.

I went to stay for two weeks in Odstock.

The first week was practical work, going through normal daily routines. The OT said she was learning more from me than the other way round!

The second week I was sent to live in the bungalow on my own with the help of a new microwave and a car load of gadgets. Everything went fine, except for putting on my socks, which is still a problem.

I sat down with the OTs to write the report and proposals



Off to the shops by herself.

which were to go back to Dorset Social Services. Despite the fact I had helped to write it, Dorset wouldn't show the report to me or mother as it was so "confidential."

I returned home with the microwave and a Creda hot water heater instead of a kettle. All I needed now was to have the kitchen sink lowered, as recommended in the Odstock report. We had measured it out and everything seemed simple.

In fact, the next nine months were to be hell and frustration. The social service OTs kept coming out to see me, measuring me and the

sink, but nothing was done.

Mother eventually had a bad breakdown and we ran away from home until they agreed to do it exactly as I had said in the beginning.

Soon after, we moved to Milton Keynes - the best thing we ever did. I had the bungalow arranged for me to be able to live on my own one day without mother.

By 1988 she was 81 and had become hard of hearing, which was a big problem between us as I have a speech difficulty.

The social workers here were wonderful. They suggested that the time had come for mother and I to live apart. So, in 1989, mother moved into her own bungalow, five minutes walk away.

It has been a great success. We are both so much happier. We visit each other, not every day, but we go shopping and she still likes to do some washing and gardening for me.

A home carer comes in every morning for an hour to help me get going, cook my meal to warm up later, and clean up for me. Others call in at weekends and holiday time.

Why didn't we do this before? It was harder for mother to accept than me at first, but now she has her own home, sharing it with her faithful dog Pip who she loves.

She is free at last to lead her own life for the first time ever, and so am I.



## Our sales staff understand both sets of wheels.

For many years now, Ford have been at the forefront of developments for disabled drivers. We provide support for Banstead Place, the disabled drivers' assessment centre and have been involved with the Motability schemes right from the beginning.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_





# Planting the seeds of success

**Nellie de Beaufort Saunders explains the fun she's had with cuttings and seedlings**

When I retired from Buckinghamshire county council's farm gardens after 20 happy years, I began to grow more house plants, mostly from cuttings. With a re-conditioned hip, I couldn't do much in the garden.

Epiphyllums, Christmas and Easter cacti, lovely "winter tales", the November-flowering cactus, and many more of all shapes and sizes are now on every window-sill, as well as on little tables and stools. Growing happily amongst them are African violets, streptocarpus ("constant nymph") and a 28-year-old gloxinia, which still bears 30-40 beautiful deep purple-and-white blooms through the summer and early autumn.

On the sitting room floor, by the window, are three large white geraniums, awaiting the removal of their side shoots for new young plants. The sitting room looks more like a garden room, especially as it has French windows!

Growing plants from leaf cuttings is not difficult. It is fascinating and great fun and above all very instructive and rewarding, for all the stages of growth can be observed, from the first baby leaf to the blooming of the adult plant.

All you need are a few "stock" plants, an assortment of flowerpots in various sizes (I prefer plastic ones), a bag of soil-less compost, a trowel and patience - some of the cuttings take three or four weeks to show any sign of growth.

Talking to plants doesn't work so well as listening to them. Some prefer to be cool, especially when they are very young, while others revel in the sunshine. They will soon tell you if they are unhappy.

I haven't a greenhouse, or a cold frame, so the kitchen window-sill is my propagating shelf. Most young plants seem to prefer its north-facing aspect and the moist atmosphere, particularly African violets and streptocarpus.

To increase my lovely "constant nymph", I select a sturdy leaf from the "stock" plant, cut it into pieces about one and a half inches long and insert them, one behind the other, in a three and a half inch or five inch pot filled with damp compost, making sure that the narrowest ends are in the compost. Then I cover the pot with a small plastic bag, securing it with a

rubber band; the resulting condensation keeps the cuttings moist but wet.

After two to four weeks the baby leaves begin to grow. When they are an inch high I remove the plastic bag, and a fortnight later carefully transfer the young plants, complete with the old piece of leaf, into individual pots, giving them a little water in the saucer. I always water streptocarpus, African violets

and gloxinias from the bottom, never from the top: the leaves go brown and die if water is accidentally spilt on them.

African violet leaf cuttings are much easier to do. I fill two and a half or three inch pots with damp compost, cut off some leaves from my large plants, with about an inch of stalk, and pop each one into a pot so that the leaf stands just above the compost. Then I water very sparingly every two

or three days just to keep the compost slightly damp.

Soon miniature hillocks begin to appear in the pots. Then as many as five or six tiny leaves start to push up through the mounds, close to the parent leaf. Each one is a new plantlet, which can be gently split from its neighbour and potted up into three and a half inch pots in a few weeks time. Just tap the whole pot out carefully onto soft kitchen

paper to separate them and keep the new leaves dry.

When they are big enough, the African violets are transferred to five inch pots, the size they seem to like best. They will bloom almost continuously through the year. Some of mine are four years old.

Overwatering is harmful to most plants, particularly African violets. If a plant does not take up the water within ten minutes I empty the saucer, put kitchen paper under the pot to soak up the surplus, and don't

## The bed that puts control firmly in your own hands.



Here's a little good news for all those people who unfortunately are largely confined to bed. You no longer have to take life lying down. Hoskins, Britain's foremost manufacturer of hospital beds, has developed a domestic bed based on our vast experience of medical equipment and understanding of the needs of people who need special attention.

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The Hoskins electric bed puts control firmly in your own hands.

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In fact, the Hoskins electric bed makes getting up and about easier for you to get up and about.

Hoskins have designed the bed so it can be lowered to just eighteen inches off the floor to allow you to swing your legs out to a convenient sitting position and then, with the push of a button, raise the bed again to standing height.

The Hoskins electric bed is based on a bed already used very successfully by hospitals and nursing homes the world over, this modern



# n your own home

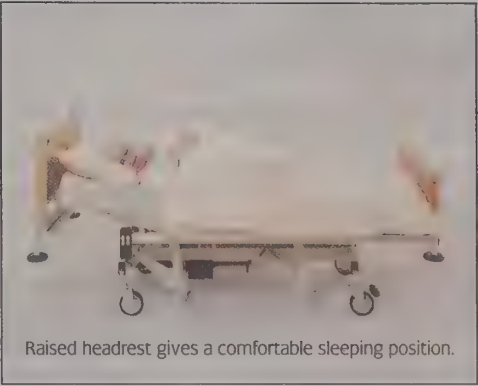
r for a couple of days.  
oxinias are beautiful, well worth  
le trouble to keep them healthy  
flowering for years through  
ner and early autumn.  
ase off the watering in October,  
ing altogether by the end of the  
th, then put the plant under the  
in the kitchen to rest until early  
uary, when the new pink shoots  
ust visible. The corm is then  
into a clean pot (after I have  
oved as much of the old, "spent"  
post as I can without damaging

the roots or new shoots). It is  
placed on the bedroom  
window-sill, protected from  
too much sun by the net  
curtain, and given a little water  
in the saucer.  
At present, late February,  
my 28-year-old plant is two  
inches high and the sturdy  
velvety leaves are expanding  
daily.  
Geraniums, too, are easy. I  
take off sturdy side or top  
shoots from the parent plants,

cutting each one just below a  
leaf joint, remove the lower  
leaves, insert the shoots into  
three and a half inch pots -  
first making sure the compost  
is quite damp as geraniums are  
thirsty plants - and put the  
pots on the floor of the sitting  
room near the window.  
Growing vegetables from  
seed is also fun. My tomato  
plants start off on the kitchen  
window-sill in a half-size seed  
tray in April. When the



African violet queen: Nellie de Beaufort Saunders



Raised headrest gives a comfortable sleeping position.



Raised backrest makes sitting up easy.



The bed lowers to just 18" off the floor.



From sitting to standing in one easy move.

seedlings are about an inch  
high they go into individual  
pots, again three and a half  
inch, and join the geraniums  
on the floor of the sitting room  
- by now rather crowded!  
A fortnight or so later I  
begin to harden them all off  
outside during the day, until  
early June, when they are  
planted in the garden.  
Cabbage, cauliflower and  
purple sprouting broccoli  
seeds, also parsley and sweet  
peas, are sown in boxes on top  
of the coal bunker by the wall,  
protected from the birds by a  
small plastic netting cage.  
Soon after the seeds  
germinate, I "prick" them off  
into other seed boxes, forty  
plants to a box. The sweet  
peas are sowed singly, again  
forty to a box.  
When the sweet peas are big  
enough, my husband plants  
them all round a bamboo  
"wigwam" he has set up, and  
what a lovely sight they make  
in full bloom. He also  
transplants the vegetables from  
boxes into the open ground.  
Lobelia looks pretty edging  
flower beds or teamed with  
geraniums and alyssum in  
hanging baskets or window  
boxes, but is almost impossible  
to sow thinly and evenly.  
I pour the seeds into a  
folded piece of paper, gently  
tap it so they fall fairly slowly  
onto the compost in a small  
seed tray, and gently press  
them into the surface of the  
compost with the back of a  
spoon. Then I stand the  
container on the kitchen  
window-sill on a plastic tray  
and slowly fill this with water  
until the top of the compost is  
slightly moist.  
Transferring the minute  
seedlings to seed boxes, I use a  
split cane and a plastic date  
fork, planting two or three  
together as they hold each  
other up and make better,  
bushier plants. Then I put the  
boxes on the window-sill and  
water them thoroughly  
between the rows of seedlings.  
Once the danger of frost has  
passed they are hardened off  
on the coal bunker and then  
planted out. How rewarding it  
is when they begin to flower.  
There's no end of fun to be  
had with plants!

See books, page 14, and  
checkout, page 19, for more  
gardening.

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It comes with a choice of attractive and  
stylish headboards and foot ends, including light  
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## BOOKS

## The Easy-Care Garden

by Steven Williams  
(Webb and Bower, £16.95)

This beautifully illustrated book, published at the end of March, calls itself "a complete guide to low-maintenance gardening."

As well as being for people who like gardens but not necessarily gardening, it has good advice for disabled or elderly people who are put off by some of the heavier tasks involved.

It is divided into three sections: design and techniques for easy-care gardening; an encyclopaedia of easy-care plants; and basic gardening tasks such as pruning.

The chapter on gardening for disabled people has some good, common sense advice. Although the style might set some people's teeth on edge (for example, "gardening can be a most pleasurable activity for the handicapped"), there is lots of good advice for the beginner. Basic tips on paths and terraces, raised beds and tools will steer the novice away from costly mistakes and painful lessons.

There are money-saving tips too, such as wrapping padding round the handles of old forks and trowels to help people with weak or arthritic hands.

Other chapters cover the nice parts of gardens, such as beds and borders and roses, as well as the nasty tasks such as weeding.

Alison Rowat



*Tulipa humilus*: a dwarf species which flowers early spring.

## Parkinson's Disease and Employment

by Dr John Williams  
(Parkinson's Disease Society, 36 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG, £1.)

This little booklet, only 20 pages long, is packed with the employment experiences of 43 people with Parkinson's Disease.

It has been compiled by Dr John Williams, who has the condition himself.

According to Dr Williams, the early stages of Parkinson's Disease are particularly difficult to deal with. Questions like "Does it mean I am likely to die soon?", or "How will it affect my job?" race through a person's mind.

But who can you ask?

Dr Williams decided to ask others with the condition through the Parkinson's Disease Society Newsletter.

Expecting to get no more from it than statistical data, Dr Williams found he had tapped into a wealth of experiences that others could learn from.

A variety of professions are covered, from GC the manager to VC the hospital nurse. Each case history relates emotions, successes and failures, as well as the facts.

Dr Williams hopes others will get as much benefit from this booklet as he did.

At only £1, hopefully many people will.

Alison Rowat

## Who Cares about Disabled People?

by Pam Adams  
(Child's Play International Ltd, Ashworth Road, Bridgemoor, Swindon, £2.95 hardback, £1.50 paperback)

This is one of a series of four *Who Cares?* books. The first

pages show the ways a person may be disabled. It then goes on to say that we are all disabled to a certain extent by some physical feature or even an exceptional talent.

It warns of the risk of handicap from misusing alcohol and drugs and from eating the wrong foods.

It explains how disabled people can lead normal lives and how they might need our help to do so.

More importantly, disabled people need our time and friendship, because it is only through friendship and understanding that we will get to know the person behind the handicap.

Ian Mitchell and Lana Coy

## Hoists and Lifts

by AK Wilson and GM Cochrane  
(Mary Marlborough Lodge, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD, £9.50.)

Mary Marlborough Lodge has produced a second edition of *Hoists and Lifts* in the valuable Equipment for Disabled People series.

Five years after the first edition, it gives an update on all hoisting and lifting products.

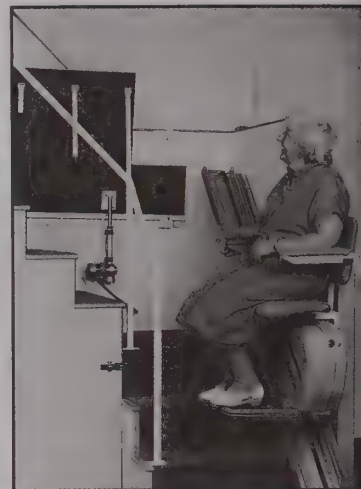
The book's format remains the same. Categories of products are outlined in the index, which is at the back of the book, as well as being mentioned at the top of each page. Each set of products is foreworded by "Points to consider."

The descriptions, which come mostly with pictures and diagrams, are very

comprehensive and comment on positive and less positive aspects of the equipment.

At the start of the descriptions is a paragraph on intended use, very useful for anyone involved in choosing, purchasing or providing.

The introduction gives some helpful information but does not explain how the hoists and lifts were chosen. For example, portable bath lifts were



Minivator 903 with bridging platform, £1,595.



Nurse patient hoist, standard hydraulic model £2,286.

included in the previous edition, but have been omitted from this one.

It would be easier to find details on particular products if they were listed alphabetically in the text, and if a master list was included at the end of the book.

The whole series is a valuable resource, especially for an information service or therapy department.

The books are updated every few years and are obviously more useful when they are newly edited. As they age it is important to use them in conjunction with more current information, such as the Disabled Living Foundation equipment handbook.

Sue Clements

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## FILM

## Awakenings

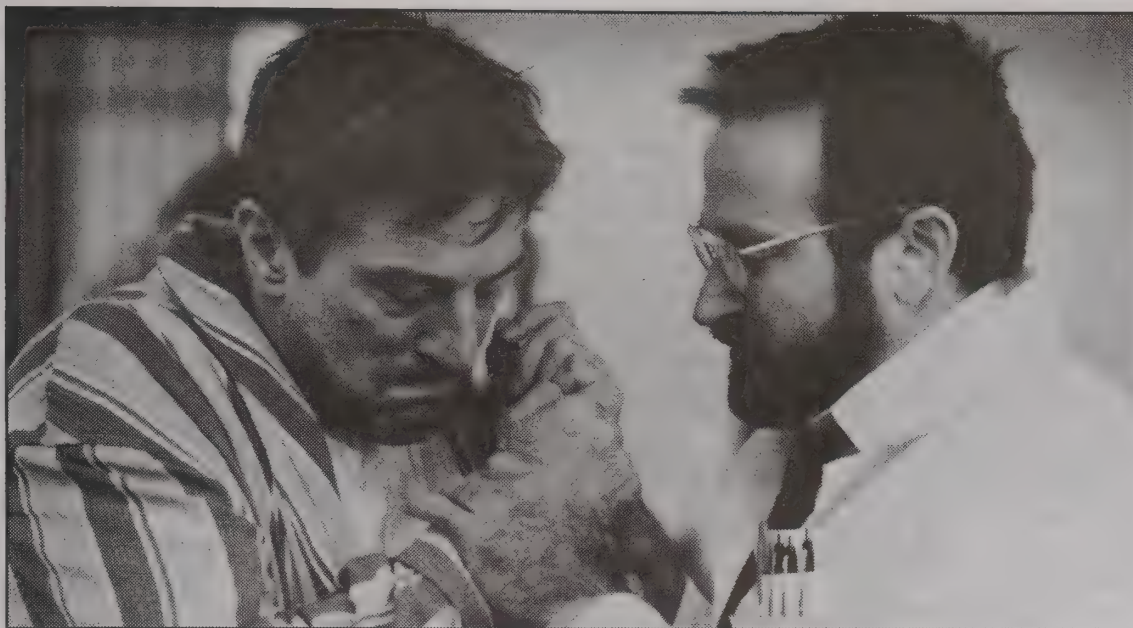
This medical drama, from a true story by Oliver Sacks, builds to a tear-jerker of fountainous proportions, as the inexperienced Dr Malcolm Sayer (Robin Williams) discovers short term relief for the almost comatose Leonard Lowe (Robert De Niro).

*Awakenings* is a tale of resurrection and revelation which tries a bit too hard at times to be meaningful and touching.

But when it works, it raises serious questions about the responsibilities of care in long term institutions.

In 1969, Dr Sayer unexpectedly lands a job at the Bainbridge Hospital in the Bronx. In a remote ward he finds himself drawn to a group of patients, including Leonard, who are severely disabled, unable to speak, move or express themselves.

It transpires that the group



Holding on tight: Robert De Niro (left) and Robin Williams in *Awakenings*.

COLUMBIA PICTURES

are all survivors of the sleeping sickness epidemic of the '20s. Over the years, various medical professionals have passed through, yet the patients stay in a half-world. It falls on the shy, awkward Dr Sayer to find the key that will "awaken" them.

When the group respond positively to the experimental medication, Sayer and his staff are awestruck, and their sense

of medical detachment is monumentally shaken. This results in a spell of stunning emotional upheaval for patients and staff.

The title refers to the way the professionals at Bainbridge come to understand the needs of the group, as well as the actual stirrings of the patients. This is an attempt to deal with the issue of "looking beyond the disability to see the whole

person," which is laudable.

William's and De Niro's performances, the former suitably restrained and the latter convincingly observed, are also worthy of praise.

But the excessive use of a crudely emotive soundtrack and some woefully unimaginative scenes undermines some of Penny Marshall's movie.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

## Look out for

**Access to Image.** Exhibitions/workshops on positive images of disabled people. 4 Feb-21 April. Museum of Photography, Film and Television. Tel:(0274) 725347

**Hounslow/Shape (London)** disability arts festival.7 March-13 April. Tel:081-960 9247.

**Victoria and Albert tour** for visually impaired people. 30 April. Tel: 071-938 8634.

## THEATRE

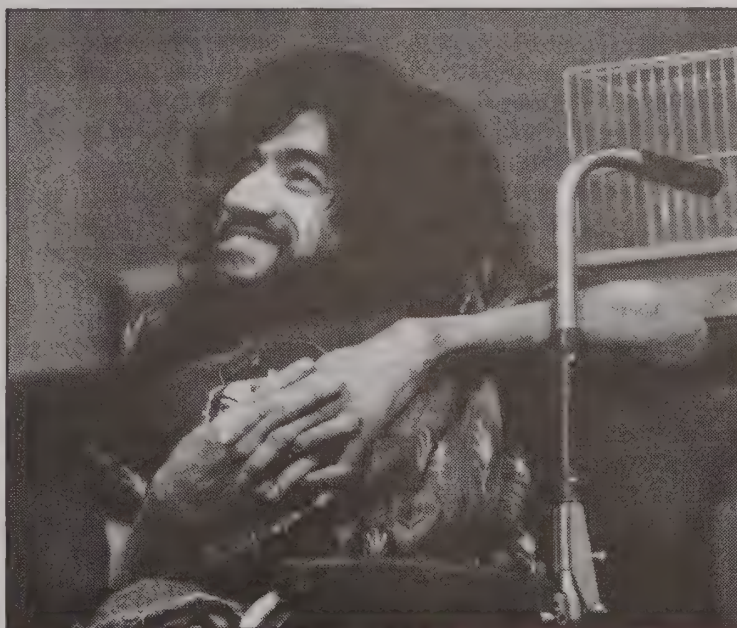
## Imagine Drowning

Despite Nabil Shaban being part of Terry Johnson's inspiration for writing *Imagine Drowning*, Shaban is by no means the central character. The play is set in a small

guest house that is almost a comic version of the Bates motel in Hitchcock's *Psycho* with a hint of menace bubbling behind the amusing facade of the "simple north country" landlady and profane parrots. Jane arrives in search of her

the transition to being characters in their own being characters in their own right.

The simple north country landlady and Tom are somewhat more successful, though Shaban's part seems to be too close to his real self to



Smiling Shaban: no real test of his talents.

JOHN HAYNES

journalist husband, who joined Tom (Shaban) on an anti-nuclear demonstration and has now disappeared.

Events shift seamlessly between Jane and her husband's stay at the guest house. The effect is clever and faultlessly performed by the cast, but it does mean that some of the potential for dramatic tension is lost.

Characters seem to take second place to the ideas and issues hung around them. The left wing journalist struggling with the dilemma of working for a capitalist newspaper, the devoted wife in search of her lost husband and the astronaut who has not adjusted to having his feet on the ground never quite make

be a genuine test of his talents. It is a bonus to have a disabled person in such a role, with disability and apartheid being spoken of in the same breath, but there are some moments that leave niggling doubts about its integrity.

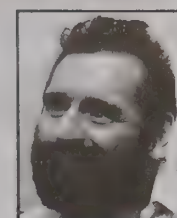
A joke about Tom guiding a blind person who is also deaf and about being "legless before I've started drinking" seem to be as tired as Rip Van Winkle and rather out of place.

Trying to draw out a single firm point from *Imagine Drowning* is difficult. It left me unsatisfied and even a little bemused. But perhaps Johnson's point is that modern life is unsatisfying, bemusing and without firm conclusions.

Michael Turner

## TV

After earlier editions of **Holiday 91** had featured inaccessible holidays as prizes in the *Radio Times*



competition, Martin Duffy's contribution (BBC1, Feb) was a welcome relief.

His report on fly-drive holidays to America was informative and comprehensive.

But he still felt the need to explain why he uses a wheelchair, and confused his definitions of "handicap" and "disability."

**Forty Minutes** (BBC2) featured disability in two successive editions.

"Where There's Hope" (31 Jan) followed the families of two British autistic children to a Japanese-led school in America.

Within a term the children were dramatically less violent, but is this form of normalisation any more acceptable, in terms of disability pride, than conductive education?

"The Prisoner" (7 Feb) was a purely visual piece of film-making, featuring a man with no arms. It was beautiful to watch, but I'm unsure about the message!

**This Morning** (ITV, 30 Jan) featured John Hawkrige being his usual, deliberately positive self.

The trouble was that he was there to answer questions in the programme's problem spot. Disability may cause problems, particularly for those who have become disabled recently, but it shouldn't have been in the problem spot.

Though John tended to over-indulge in platitudes, and "corrected" cerebral palsy to spastic, his go-for-it standpoint made the item more tolerable than it deserved to be.

**Bookmark** (BBC2, 6 Feb) celebrated the poetry of David Wright.

He happens to be deaf, but has succeeded through the "spoken word", composing in written English.

Regardless of the quality of his work, the programme did nothing to promote deaf culture.

In fairness, the BBC should now give equal time to Dorothy Miles, composer and performer of beautiful sign language poetry.

**QED** (BBC1, 13 Feb) took up the story of Stephen Wiltshire, from an edition of four years ago.

He has an extraordinary artistic talent and deserves his commercial success.

But would anyone have celebrated this talent but for his autism? I wonder.

Chris Davies

## ARTS COUNCIL TRUST FOR SPECIAL FUNDS

## DISABLED PEOPLE AND THE ARTS

Applications are now sought by the Trustees for a small number of awards. These awards will be made for community orientated projects that seek new ways of encouraging the participation of disabled people within the arts. The awards are not open to students. These projects should fall outside the scope of schemes currently funded by the Arts Council and Regional Arts Associations. No award will exceed £1,000.

Application forms are available from **The Financial Controller, Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 3NQ. Tel: 071-333 0100.**

Completed applications should be sent to the Financial Controller by 29 March 1991.

*The Arts Council has an Equal Opportunities Policy. It warmly welcomes applications from all sections of the community.*

ARTS COUNCIL



# Share Your Problems

with Margaret Morgan

## Sharing the feedback can help too



This column is about sharing problems. However, my postbag often contains interesting and helpful suggestions as well. These letters were in response to queries raised in recent months.

Last July the topic was "The Menopause: what to expect and how to cope". One of my contributors has recently written again:

"After first writing to you, I felt very guilty that I had not mentioned just how understanding my husband was when my symptoms were at their worst.

He was (and still is) marvellous: entirely supportive, and he has always accepted totally that the feelings I experienced were real.

After he read the article he remarked on just how varied the symptoms can be, if you just take my own and those of the other contributor into account."

The letters in the August column concerning the lack of fully accessible retreat centres and religious communities struck a chord with many readers. Most of those who

wrote agreed that if you are disabled the opportunities to live the Religious Life or to go on spiritual retreats are very limited indeed.

Several readers, however, commended the excellent facilities at the MacLeod Centre, part of the Iona Community.

It is encouraging to know that later this year CHAD (Church Action on Disability) plans to hold a special seminar to discuss this area of Christian living.

In October we considered the pros and cons of making personal videos and films to help the general public to understand that people with disabilities are people first:

"It does make a difference when a video is made about one's own disability. A film about my wife and myself was shown on BBC2 Open Space and since then our lives have changed for the better. There has been much greater understanding of my special problem, which is a genetic one affecting my sexual identity (see Share Your Problems, April 1986). Those who used to cross over to the other side of the

road rather than meet me now approach me and my wife and invite us to share their homes with them.

Our film went round the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Homes too, and it was these very people who used to look on me as a freak. So, even though it may be hard to talk about very personal matters, this type of publicity certainly can help."

This letter was in response to the first letter in my November column, "Epilepsy: more ways than one of coping":

"I was very moved by Gillian Shaw's letter and found her experience so helpful. She gave me new insight into understanding my young son's problems with epilepsy.

His attacks seem to coincide with periods of stress in his life. Although he can go several weeks at a time with no fits, a sudden shock or fear of disruption in his life can bring on a series of seizures.

However, he has learnt to displace a fit by 'mind control', together with violent voluntary movements in his legs and body. At these moments I can help him with the mind control by holding his hand tightly, gazing at him, exuding strength and calm. This can take several minutes of sustained 'beaming in' on my part, but if we succeed in displacing the fit he laughs with relief.

I have many times discussed this with parents and carers and heard many similar stories. In some cases fits can be alleviated without drugs and give the sufferer control over a situation that can seem hopeless."

Following up Margaret's aims for 1991 in the January issue, I was able to send on to her a very encouraging letter from the director of the Conservative Disability Group, in which he indicates that the Group may be able to help her attend the Conservative Party Conference later this year.

Thank you all for sharing your views and suggestions with other readers.

Do please go on writing with your problems, queries and good ideas.

*MacLeod Centre, The Abbey, Isle of Iona, Argyll PA76 6SN, tel: (06817) 404.*

*CHAD, Secretary, John Peirce, Charisma Cottage, Drewsteignton, Exeter EX6 6QR, tel: (0647) 21259. Conservative Disability Group, director Malcolm Dunlop, 81 Gregories Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1NV, tel: (0494) 673263.*

## PROFILE



## John Wall

English justice, according to one judge, is like the Ritz Hotel - open to all. If so, John Wall is a little late checking in. For Mr Wall, 60, became the first blind solicitor to be made a deputy master of the High Court last month - 20 years after he was first rejected.

He is, by his own admission, "not particularly afraid of standing up and shouting my head off." One wonders why he has kept quiet for so long.

But although he may not have stamped his authority on the law courts till now, he has made his mark elsewhere.

He lost his sight when he was eight due to glaucoma. He was educated in Worcester, at what is now the Royal National Institute for the Blind's New College. From there, it was Oxford and a law degree. He worked for 18 years as a solicitor for NALGO (National and Local Government Officers Association) before becoming a partner in the prestigious law firm Lawrence Graham.

He first applied for a mastership while at NALGO. "I received a very firm answer from the Lord Chancellor's department saying in no way would they appoint a blind person to be any kind of judicial personage.

"They thought you needed to 'observe the demeanour of witnesses' as they call it. In other words, you had to look at somebody to see if they were telling the truth or not. Superficially, that argument has a lot of attractiveness, but in practice no self-respecting judge would ever admit that he reached a decision because of what someone looked like."

It was also felt that the public would have no faith in a blind registrar's decisions. But, as he pointed out, the electors of Sheffield had faith in David Blunkett MP and there were already several blind judges in the USA.

There are around 70 blind lawyers in Britain and more on the way. Like Mr Wall, they defy those who said they would never be able to cope in a profession built on paper. Mr Wall's articulated clerk reads for him at work

and assists him when he sits as a deputy master. And in court, like every other lawyer, he is a furious note taker, but his are taken on a hand braille frame.

He became a lawyer following the advice of his old headmaster: "There are three things a blind boy can do," he said, "physiotherapy, the church or law."

At Oxford, life was dramatically different from the "cotton wool" world of Worcester. "I never found it difficult to make friends at school, but making friends with sighted people I found quite difficult."

An Oxford education wasn't a ticket to the top. After 53 interviews at private and public firms he was only offered two jobs (by the RSPCA and NALGO). "I think there was - still is - a bit of prejudice."

Despite this recognition, and all the years of hard work, he believes luck played a large part in getting him the deputy master's position. One of his colleagues happened to be a friend of the law vice-chancellor who happened to have been taught by a blind law professor. The vice-chancellor mentioned Mr Wall's case to Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, and the rest is legal history.

He believes he has a lot to thank Lord Mackay for. "He's much disliked in the legal profession and I can't say some of his ideas appeal to me very much. But he does seem to be a very open minded person."

Open-mindedness or not, Mr Wall is shrewd enough to think there is another reason for his elevation: "They wouldn't have liked the bad publicity which might have arisen if I'd been refused."

He became chairman of the RNIB last July, having been vice-chairman for 15 years. His aims for the '90s are to harness technology to serve the needs of blind and visually impaired people, and to achieve closer co-operation between blind organisations.

He is also a founder member of the Law Society's Group for Solicitors with Disabilities, chairman of the Society of Blind Lawyers, and a board member of the European Blind Union.

His next fight is against the threatened imposition of VAT on all goods, including white sticks.

To this end, he's off to Paris and Athens soon. "It doesn't sound much but it makes a hole in your life when you're trying to earn your living as an ordinary lawyer."

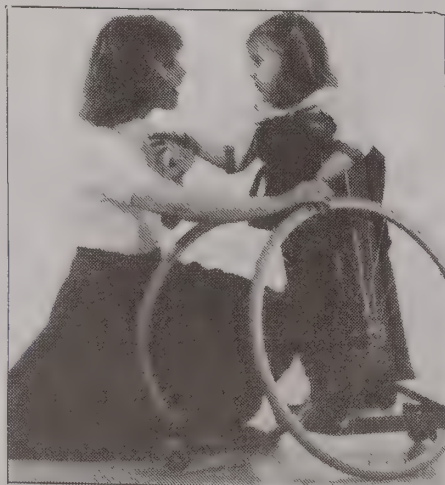
As well as the law, he has a wife, four sons, one grandchild and another on the way to occupy his time.

If justice is like the Ritz Hotel, then John Wall is here to stay.

Alison Rowat

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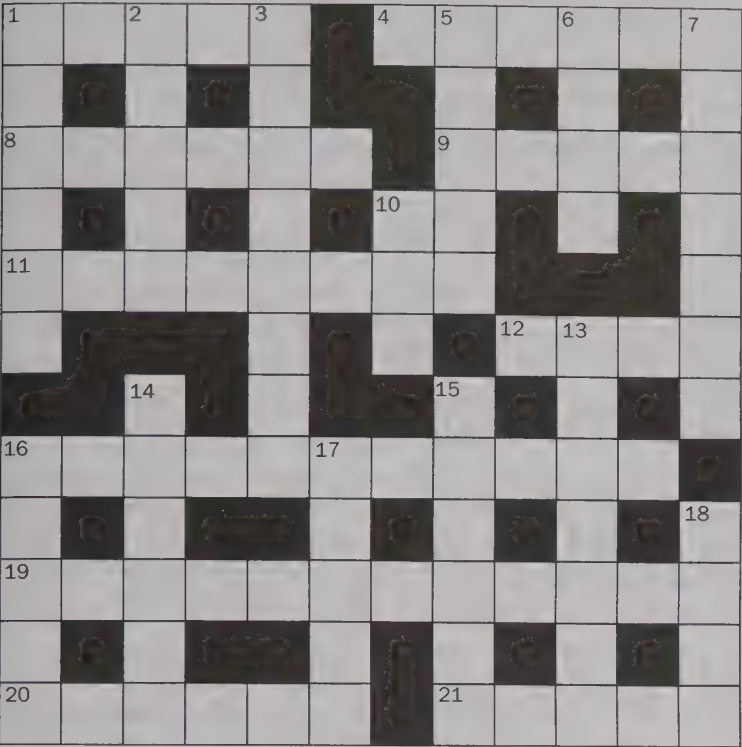
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**Rifton** Robertsbridge, E. Sussex TN32 5DR phone 0580 880626



# DN's crossword

Answers page 22

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



- ACROSS**

1,1 down Pioneering therapist who died in January (5,6)

4 Puppet on a — (6)

8 The Chancellor of the Exchequer is to present it this month (6)

9 Tree or ski resort (5)

10 Married to Charles (2)

11 Rare pint (anag)

12 Arthur —, ex-Wimbledon tennis champion (4)

16 Able to heal (11)

19 Kind of champagne (4,8)

20 Larder (6)

21 Synthetic material (5)
- DOWN**

1 See 1 across

2 Big disability organisation (5)

3 Catholic Latin prayer (3,5)

5 Locomotive (5)

6 Mischevious elves (4)

7 Polite and correct (7)

10 Dark - or a bit stupid (3)

13 Small wood (7)

14 — Mowbray, Leicestershire town (6)

15 Indian, or long and hot (6)

16 Down and out (5)

17 Flower - girl's name (5)

18 Eager(4)

## Charity starts in chip shops

Funny things happen to me when I'm away from home. On holiday in Wales recently, I decided to treat myself to some fish and chips. So donning hat and coat, I proceeded down to the chip shop. No problem. After I had ordered my supper, I felt for my wallet. No wallet. No money. I had left them behind.

Beginning to get a bit uneasy, my glance fell on an object on the counter. It was a box which said "Please help spastics". Obviously intended for any change customers had to spare, I thought. Or was it? I explained to the shop owner that I had no money. "I am one of those," I said, pointing to the box. "Could you take the money from the box?" And he did just that. Now that's what I call cutting out the middle man! It's not only me that funny



Kevin Holmes: bon viveur and traveller.

things happen to. For instance, take the "city gent and the invisible station" story. I was travelling home late one night from a meeting in Reading. Sitting on the train at Reading station, waiting to depart, I was quietly wondering why I was not at home like sensible people on a dirty night like tonight. Suddenly, a city gent entered the carriage, dressed in a pin-striped suit with bowler

hat, umbrella, briefcase and some parcels.. He asked if this was the right train for Didcot, so I told him it was the next stop. We were quickly underway when I noticed that he had fallen asleep in the corner. Half way between Reading and Didcot, the train came to an abrupt halt at a red stop signal. (At least I assume this was what it was. It was one of those nights when you couldn't see a hand in front of your face.) Hurriedly, the city gent gathered up his belongings and made a quick exit from the train. After a minute or two a pair of muddy eyes (belonging to the recently departed city gent) appeared above the floor of the carriage. There then followed a mad scramble to get back in. The city gent straightened himself up, adjusted his clothes and picked up his belongings. His embarassment wasn't over yet. Glancing across at me, he exclaimed:"I bet you think I'm a right fool", and then proceeded to get out of the other side! Some people just never learn, do they?

Kevin Holmes

**Caption winner for February**

Pauline Dooley from Liverpool for: "That'll teach him not to ask when interest rates are coming down."

## Create-a-caption



### ... NEWS QUIZ ...

- 1 Why was Maureen Kendrick, who has cancer, denied a drug?

2 According to Labour, which council spends 4p per head caring for mentally ill people?

3 Which football player wanted extra money to play England?

4 Which US murder drama went into its second series without revealing whodunnit?

5 Which statue returned to Victoria Embankment?
- 6 How did South African President F W De Klerk try to end apartheid?

7 How old was actress Zsa Zsa Gabor on 6 February?

8 Who became Britain's first blind deputy master?

9 Where was the world's largest oil spill released?

10 Who said he would stand down at the next election?

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Disability of user(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- ...NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS...**
1. The drug cost £3,000 and the government said it was partly ineffective.
  2. Warwickshire.
  3. Cameroon's Roger Milla.
  4. TV programme Twin Peaks.
  5. The Little Temperance.
  6. He abolished the remaining laws separating whites and blacks.
  7. 72.
  8. John Wall.
  9. Off the shore of Kuwait.
  10. Sir Geoffrey Howe.



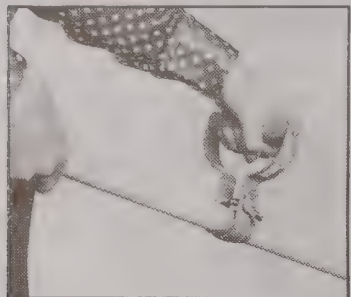
## CHECKOUT

Spring is in the air and it is time to get those green fingers going again. This month Checkout takes a look at gardening tools.

For people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility, reaching to the ground or the back of a flower bed may seem impossible. Long handled tools could be the answer. Several companies produce them.

Griffin has a new range of tools with telescopic, variable-length handles which lock with a twisting action (*see right*). The handles are not interchangeable, so each tool must be bought separately. Tools include loppers £25, shears £20 and hoes, rakes, forks and trowels all £14 each. For details of your local stockist tel: (0384) 77789.

Gardena Ltd do a range of small lightweight aluminium tools, £5.99 for the tools and £4.99 for a long handle which fits any of them. From DIY



stores and large garden centres, tel: (0462) 686688.

Keeping your garden free of weeds can be a nightmare. The weedkey from P&A Associates has a long handle and works a bit like a corkscrew to pull out the weeds along with a small

plug of soil. It can also be used to make a hole for planting small bulbs. £23.49 inc p&p tel: (0582) 764990.

If you do not have a garden why not try hanging baskets instead? There are two brands that use a pulley system to lower the basket for watering:



Hi-Lo from Par Fox Products, £5.49 (inc p&p), tel: (0942) 726862, and Easytend Pulley bracket from Global Crafts, £15.60 (inc p&p), tel: (0983) 64183.

Before you spend money on new tools think about adapting those you already have.

Try padding the handles of forks and trowels to make it easier for people with arthritic hands to use them. Conventional digging tools can be fitted with a D-shaped handle half way down the shaft (*see left*). This helps to lift the weight of the soil and cuts down on bending. £9.30 (inc p&p) from Wolf-Tools Ltd (subject to availability), tel: (0989) 67600.

If you feel that you need more advice Horticultural Therapy and the Gardening for Disabled Trust can both

help.

Horticultural Therapy produce a magazine, *Growth Point* (subscription £10 a year) and will answer specific written enquiries, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset BA11 3DW, tel: (0373) 64782.

The Trust has volunteers

who can offer advice in your own home and can in some cases provide money to adapt gardens or pay for tools. The Freight, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3PG.

A useful, if slightly out of date, list of ideas and equipment can be found in the book *Gardening* (1987) £7.50 (inc p&p) from Equipment for Disabled People, Mary Marlborough Lodge, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD.

## INFO

DETAf, The Disabled People's Employment and Training Action Fund, can make grants of up to £1,000 to help disabled people take action to promote education and training opportunities. For more details contact DETAF, Employment Unit, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

British Telecom is urging blind and disabled people who cannot use phone books to register for free calls to directory enquiries before a charge is introduced on 2 April. Call the free registration line, (0800) 919195.

**More Money for Carers** - Do you qualify? This new information sheet gives benefit advice to carers. Send an SAE to Caring Costs, c/o 29 Chilworth Mews, London WC2 3RG.

The Spinal Injuries Association now runs a telephone counselling service for people with spinal chord injuries. Tel: 081-883 4296.

The first deadline for applications for **Horizon**, the EEC Social Fund initiative on creativity for disabled people, is 22 April. For further details contact the UK Social Fund Office, European Communities

## WHAT'S ON

**The Education Show**, 7-9 March at Olympia 2 in London. Free. Tel: 071-404 4844.

**Disabled Lesbian's Cabaret**. 10 March, Camden Lesbian Centre, 5 Phoenix Road, London NW1, tel: 071-383 5405 for details.

**Jobs Open Day** and launch of jobs reservation scheme. 14 March at the Town Hall in Manchester. Details from Manchester City Council, Equality Group, Chief Executive's Dept, Level 3, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60 2LA, tel: 061-234 3258.

**Jay Day Seminars**, starting on 19 March in Aberdeen. For more details of dates and locations, contact Stephanie Piercy at Gerald Simmonds Healthcare, tel: (0296) 436557.

**Disabled Persons Conference**. 25 March at Hounslow Civic Centre. £10. Details from John Dobinson, tel: 081-862 5040.

**Horticultural Therapy**. Seminar for those who work with visually impaired people. 4 April at the Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Wisbech. £15. Details from the Advisory Committee for Blind Gardeners, Trunkwell Park, Beech Hill, Nr Reading, Berkshire RG7 2AT, tel: (0734) 884844.

**The Therapeutic Relationship** a training and development conference on 5-7 April at Gaunt's House, Wimborne, Dorset. Brochure and booking form from Ian Lee, AHPP Administrator, 14 Mornington Grove, London E3 4NS, tel: 081-983 1492.

**Community Care** and the Contract Culture. Training seminar. 18 April at Sandwell Education Development Centre, Birmingham. Other dates in London and Newcastle. Further details and application forms from Rachel Scott, Conference Officer, RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400 ext 339.

### Castle Priory

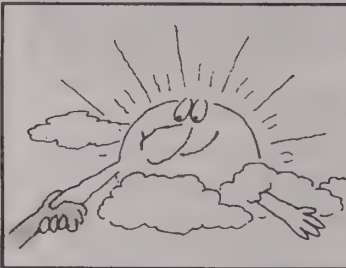
Making meetings work. £159. 1-3 May.

Group skills. £179. 7-10 May.

Non-residence charges from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 OHE (enclose SAE), tel: (0491) 37551.

Branch, Dept of Employment, Sixth Floor, Belgrave Road, London SW1V 1RB.

The Holiday Helpers project (*see logo below*), run by the Holiday Care Service, promotes holiday opportunities for people with disabilities. If you are looking for a helper, an independent holiday, or would like to volunteer to help contact them at 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW, tel: (0293) 775137.



**LeisureWhere** is a new leisure and sports information service for people with disabilities in Northamptonshire. For more information, tel: (0604) 233642.

## MOVES

From 1 April Andrew Foster will be the deputy Chief Executive of the NHS Management Executive in the Dept of Health. He succeeds Peter Griffiths who has been appointed Executive Director of Guy's Hospital Trust. The RNIB has appointed Susan Brown as their first Trusts Officer. David Mallam is the new fund-raising co-ordinator for the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

## HELP

A TV researcher making a programme about the social history of disability wants to hear from people who grew up with a disability before 1950. Contact Pamela Gordon, Domino Films, 8 Stockwell Terrace, London SW9 0QD.

The Handidate friendship agency is raising money for Polish disabled people to visit Britain. If you can help contact Handidate, The Wellington Centre, 52 Chevallier Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB, tel: (0473) 226950.

Liz Crow is seeking accounts from other disabled women for her book on disabled women and sexuality. Write to her at Ekarro House, Guildford Road, Stockwell, London SW8 2DF, tel: 071-720 7836.

The Thorngrove Agricultural Centre in Dorset is setting up an accessible camp site and would like advice from campers with mobility problems. Contact Philip Hunter, Thorngrove Centre, Common Mead Lane, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4RE.

All Clear is a design and research group looking at disability and the built environment. They need freelance desk researchers, architects and designers. Please send full CV to: All Clear Designs, 60 Bonham Road, London SW2 5HG.

# Arthritis News

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**ADJUSTAMATIC ELECTRIC** single posture bed. As new. Offers around £1,000. Tel: 021-355 5282.

**RENAULT ESPACE.** 1988, F reg GTS. High roof. Atlas conversion for wheelchair access from rear by folding ramp. 5 seater plus 1 wheelchair or 3 wheelchairs with rear seats removed. Five speed, central locking. Power steering. Electric windows. 36,000 miles. 1 owner, service history. Excellent condition. Very rare. (Cost new £24,000). Bargain - £11,995. Tel: 081-958 9292 or 081-958 9090.

**VOLVO 340 DL** 1.4 litre F reg. May '89 automatic. 7,000 miles only. Blue. Fitted with attendant carchair in passenger position. New cost £9,827, price £7,250. Tel: 081-647 9755 (Surrey).

**JOYSTICK CONTROL** powered steering fitted to Ford Escort 1,600 auto. Reg Dec 1985. 55,000 miles. Car able to take carchair. Lacquer red. £2,500 ono. Tel: (0202) 533039 evenings.

**MANGAR AIR POWERED** lifter for easy getting into and out of bath. Approved Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

New condition. First service guaranteed free by manufacturer. Only £500. Tel: Bookham (0372) 456384.

**VESSA VITESSE** mark 3. Well used but in good working order. 6 years old. Only upholstery showing age. Kerb climbers, good batteries and charger. £400 ono. Tel: (0742) 661949.

**STANNAH SILVER RAIL** stair lift. 15 foot, left hand model, hardly used. £500. Also Mechanoids Bath Lift, fixed seat, excellent condition. £100. Tel: Southampton (0703) 779214.

**HONDA ACCORD.** DX saloon. 1983. 1602 cc. Seeney and Johnson hand control system. Servo assisted brakes. New stereo. Full service history. £1,850 ono. Tel: (0934) 629586.

**BEC SPORTSLITE** wheelchair. Manually operated. 14 in seat. Just over 3 years old. Hardly used. £400 ono. Tel: (0793) 541027.

**SPORSTER ELECTRONIC BIKE.** Good condition. suitable for all types of terrain. For 10 years to adult. £600 ono. Tel: 081-866 8553.

**BEC SCOOTER PLUS.** Never been on the road. £800 ono. Tel: 051-546 5795.

**ELECTRIC CARCHAIR.** Complete with all fittings. Cost £3,600. Used once only. Sell for £2,000. Tel: 021-706 0874.

**LAKE DISTRICT,** Langdale Time-

share Lodge. Disabled access throughout. Week 14. Sleeps six. Overlooks Langdale Beck. Central Heating Extremely well equipped. Dishwasher, whirlpool bath. Access to leisure complex. £13,000 ono. Viewing: 7-14 April. Tel: (0782) 637526.

**COMPLETE CARCHAIR** system. Brand new, never used. Fitted in driving side of Ford Escort automatic G reg 1.4 with power steering and hand controls. Will sell with our without car. Tel: (0522) 689567.

**FORD ESCORT 1,300 l.** B reg. Specially adapted for disabled passenger with hydraulic lift and wheelchair. £3,800 ono. Would consider selling chair separately. Tel: (0934) 712795 (Somerset).

**VOLVO F REG.** Low mileage, very good condition. Serviced regularly. Carchair fitted £5,500 ono. Tel: (0689) 855585.

**CARCHAIR.** New in Sept '90. Never used. Cost £5,500. Sell for £3,000. Tel: (0533) 414845 (Leicester).

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VAN.** Talbot Dodge 1,100 cc, 25,000 miles. A reg. £1,500. Tel: (0245) 355791.

**3 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED** house. Fully adapted for disabled people. Reserved parking. Lounge, newly fitted kitchen, bathroom and toilet and separate wc. Full gas central heating. Wessex wheelchair lift from front room floor to major bedroom. Erith, Kent, near all amenities. Must be viewed to be appre-

Small ads: £3 a line (min. £9), billed after publication. Tel: 071-636 5020 ext 227.

ciated. £74,000 ono. Tel: Dartford (0322) 348575.

**BATRICAR 12 VOLT** deluxe Aire with cabin. New August '90. Used 1 month. Cost £3,345. Sell £2,000. Tel: (0625) 533867.

**BATRICAR AIRE 3** Deluxe model. Only 11 months old. Hardly used. Cost new £3,345. Would accept £2,700 ono. Tel: (0472) 276038.

**WHEELCHAIR - CARTER LT2000.** Ultimate lightweight. Cost £495 new. Used twice. £350. For full details please tel: (0763) 262302.

**CHAIRMAN ESCORT.** 1,600 diesel. December 1985, blue, 52,000 miles. Fully adapted for wheelchair bound passenger. £4,100. Tel: (0222) 790954.

**NISSAN PRAIRIE 1.5 SGL.** C reg. June '86. 1 owner. Fitted with Rolac ramps and wheelchair clamps. Good condition. £3,700. Tel: (0883) 712705.

**BEDFORD CF** camper. V reg. Automatic, wired for mains electric. Can take 2-3 wheelchair. MOT June '91. £2,000 ono. Tel: (0376) 516162.

**HIGH TOP COMMA** minibus with Ratcliff tail lift. Good working order. M registration MOT til August. £750. Tel: 081- 692 2394.

Continued on page 20.

TEAM LEADER  
EQUALITY GROUP

PO2 £16,821 to £18,291 Ref. C330

We need someone with a track record of achieving change in a bureaucracy to lead our Sub-Committee/Policy Development Team: 5 specialist officers who develop written policy and guidelines, before handing over to our Policy Implementation team who turn the words into concrete action. The team deals with equal opportunities issues in employment and service delivery for women, disabled people, lesbians and gay men. You need a good understanding of the issues for each of these groups, proven management skills, and above all, the ability to deliver change within fixed time scales.

Open to Job-Share.

Application forms and further details from the Chief Executive's Staff Office, Room 302, Level 3, Town Hall, Manchester. Tel. 061 234 3077. Minicom 061 234 3377.

Closing date 18th March 1991.

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age up to 65, sexuality or responsibilities for dependants

MANCHESTER  
City Council  
Defending Jobs - Improving Services

RESEARCHER  
INFORMATION/RIGHTS  
CO-ORDINATOR

Same Difference Is Channel Four's topical disability magazine series.

difference

We're looking for a researcher with some non-academic research experience, preferably in broadcasting, who's available to work with us in Bath for six months from April.

We also need an experienced information/rights professional with a sound knowledge of disability-related benefits and services who's able to work on his/her own initiative (probably from home) responding to viewers' queries.

Applicants should be disabled; we offer a good salary package to motivated and effective people. Apply with cv before March 15, 1991 to:

Vicky Whittingham, The Same Production Company Ltd., PO Box 444, Bath BA1 2TN

ISAAC  
>>UK<<

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
AUGMENTATIVE and ALTERNATIVE  
COMMUNICATION

3rd National Conference  
and  
Trade Exhibition

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT and CALL FOR PAPERS

Venue - Portland Training College, Mansfield.

Date - 21st and 22nd October 1991

(Trade Exhibition will run on the 21st only)

The object of this years conference is to broaden the areas of interest within the overall theme of COMMUNICATION. This will include such topics as:

Listening Aphasia	Integration of Assistive Technology
Clinical Audit	-Speech Recognition
Head Injury	-Environmental Control
Multiple Sensory Impairment	-Home automation and Robotics
Efficacy of Intervention	-Mobility and Posture
Special Education Issues	-Remote working and electronic mail.
	-communication competence versus language development

Keynote papers on these or other relevant topics are requested, and those accepted for presentation will receive free conference registration and a contribution towards travel.

For all other platform presentations accepted there will be a 30% reduction of registration fee as well as travelling allowance.

Special arrangements (including financial assistance) will be made to enable presentations by AAC users.

Abstracts submitted must conform to a standard format. Guidelines are available from;

Alice Meacham, Administrator  
ISAAC (UK) c/o ICAN  
10 Bowling Green Lane,  
Farringdon,  
London EC1R 0BD  
Tel: (071) 2539111  
Fax: (071) 250 1612

CALLING ALL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS  
COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

16th Annual Conference 17th, 18th, 19th April 1991

University of East Anglia, Norwich

'Education and Advancement into 2000'

All other Health Care Professionals Welcome.

Do join us for one or more days.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME is varied and includes workshops, paper presentations and lectures on RESEARCH, STUDENTS, CLINICAL, MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND QUALITY. For application forms, fees and further information please contact:

Molly Scrutton, 'Risdene', Norwich Road, Lingwood, Norfolk NR13 4BH.

Closing date for applications 28th March 1991.

The conference will also feature an extensive EXHIBITION OF TRADE STANDS AND SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE which will be open to local professionals and the general public as well as to conference delegates. For details and free admission tickets please contact:

Ann Moy, Trade Exhibition Co-ordinator, Little Plumstead Hospital, Norwich, NR13 5EW. Tel: (0603) 713355.



## ATHELDENE COMBINED DAY CENTRE

(For People with Physical Disabilities, Learning Difficulties and the Elderly Frail)

## SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

£6,591-£12,834 (SC. 1-4)

Have you typing skills, experience of word processing and computers. Are you interested in working in a Day Centre? If so, this post might interest you. We need someone with appropriate experience who can help us set up and maintain an effective record system for clients, as well as take minutes of meetings, reviews, etc. and deal with telephone enquiries, on occasions you will need to cover for other clerical/secretarial staff.

For further details contact Caroline McIlvenny, Acting Manager on 081 871 6341/2.

Application forms are available from The Director of Social Services, Town Hall, SW18 2PU. Tel. 081 871 7777 quoting reference SS/759.

Closing date 22nd March 1991.

## Wandsworth

The Council as an Equal Opportunity Employer welcomes applications regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, disability or age. All applications are considered on the basis of their merits and abilities for the job.

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

£15,000 (Negotiable)

Flexible Working Hours, Based: London W1

The Employers' Forum on Disability (EFD) is Britain's only employers' organisation concerned directly and exclusively with the employment and training of people with disabilities. EFD seeks a hard-working, outgoing and enthusiastic administrator to manage their London office.

You will be responsible for the day to day running of the office, have sound office practice skills, a good knowledge of Apple Mac computers and previous experience of dealing with senior executives. Book keeping skills would be useful.

Based in St. James's Square, in a modern building with access for people with disabilities, you will be reporting to the Director and liaising closely with the members of our Forum.

You should be well-organised with the self motivation to keep abreast of developments in the disability employment field; and to work alongside leading employers in the private and public sector.

We are an equal opportunities employer and in particular invite applications from people with disabilities.

Applications, with CV, should be sent to Susan Scott-Parker, Cadogan Management Limited, 27 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3FA. Tel: 071-495 5040.

Closing date: 15th March 1991.



EMPLOYERS' FORUM ON DISABILITY  
A SOCIETY WITH THE PRINCE OF WALES  
ADVISORY GROUP ON DISABILITY

## FOR SALE

Continued from page 19.

**ELECTRIC SCOOTER**, used only once. Simple to use, £1,000. Tel: (0932) 874104 evenings (Surrey).

**CARTERS ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR**. Approx 18 months old. Used 12 times. Cost £1,550 new. Offers. Tel: (0268) 525713.

**BEC HORIZON** care automatic wheelchair. Not quite 12 months old. Charger included. Must sell. Cost £1,735. Sell for £1,200 ono. Tel: (0227) 363526.

**FIAT EXPLORER**. Red. H reg. 4 months old. 2,500 miles. Electric winch. 2 extra side seats. £6,000 ono. Reason for sale bereavement. Tel: (0322) 229758 (day) or (0322) 669662 (evening).

**FIAT FIORINA** converted to take hydraulic wheelchair lift. Fully customised. 8,000 miles. Metallic grey. £7,500 ono. 18 months old. Tel: (0254) 53429.

**STANNAH ELECTRIC STAIRLIFT**. LH wall. 14/15 stair. £850. Tel: (0226) 742744 (Barnsley).

**FIAT FIORINA** converted to take hydraulic wheelchair lift. Fully customised. 8,000 miles. Metallic grey. £7,500 ono. 18 months old. Tel: (0254) 53429.

**STANNAH ELECTRIC STAIRLIFT**. LH wall. 14/15 stair. £850. Tel: (0226) 742744 (Barnsley).

## HOLIDAYS

**BRITTANY COTTAGE** to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

## SUNNY TENERIFE

Fully Accessible Mar y Sol

"Brilliant" says BBC TV Holiday Apartments - and Timeshare Brochure: Lynne James, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

Try a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas. Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

Continued on page 21.

NORTHERN SHAPE  
(The regional agency for arts & disability)

## DIRECTOR

£15,549-£16,821

Annual pay award pending

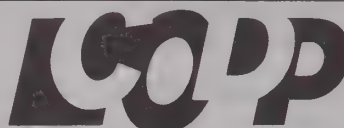
Northern Shape (from April becomes Equal Arts) requires a Director to implement the next phase of its successful policy development.

This senior management post requires knowledge and experience of working in the arts; of training; financial management and fundraising; an understanding and firm commitment to arts and disability issues.

Closing date for applications: 28th March 1991. Interviews: 24th April 1991.

Details and application form from: Northern Shape, Whinney House Resource Centre, Durham Road, Low Fell, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE9 5AR. Tel: 091 487 8892 (Voice & Minicom 5). Information available on cassette, in braille or large print.

Northern Shape is striving towards Equal Opportunities in all aspects of its work, including employment; we particularly welcome applications from disabled people.



LAMBETH COALITION  
OF DISABLED PEOPLE

## CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED LIVING

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH A PROJECT WHICH PROVIDES ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO DISABLED PEOPLE TOWARDS INDEPENDENT LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY AND SETTING UP ALTERNATIVE SERVICES UNDER THE CONTROL OF DISABLED PEOPLE?

LCODP is setting up a Centre for Integrated Living and needs an:

## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WORKER

Salary - £13,125 inclusive (pro rata)  
21 hours per week

CIL is a new form of organisation through which disabled people themselves plan and deliver services to local disabled people. The Lambeth CIL is a project of LCODP and is supported by Lambeth Social Services and West Lambeth Health Authority. Its main aim is to provide alternative services to enable disabled people to take control of their own lives and achieve Independent Living.

The post holder will be someone who: *has a disability; and will provide administrative support to ensure the efficient and responsive running of the project. The work will involve a range of administrative duties including:* general clerical, handling petty cash, maintenance of records, use of Information Technology and general office equipment, etc.

The LCODP has an Equal Opportunities commitment to respond to the needs of disabled people from all sections of the community. Applications are encouraged from disabled people irrespective of gender, race and ethnic origin and from disabled lesbians and gay men.

For information and application form contact: Dick Leaman or Julie Lucas, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. Tel. 071-274 2299

Applications can be made available in large print, tape and braille. Working premises are fully accessible to wheelchair users.

Closing date: Friday 15th March 1991

## SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION



Because life doesn't stop when you're paralysed

## SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION

HARINGEY ON-CALL SUPPORT AND CREATIVE CASE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

## CO-ORDINATOR/DEVELOPMENT WORKER

£13,614-£14,975 plus £999 Outer London Weighting (Pro Rata)

SIA is seeking a well motivated person to manage a pool of on-call workers providing personal and domestic support to people with a range of physical disabilities in the Haringey area. Also to support scheme users in developing ideal support arrangements tailored to their individual needs by providing advice and advocacy. The post is part-time (20 hours per week) and will run for 18 months initially. The postholder will work from home. No formal qualifications are required, but proven organisational, supervisory and interpersonal skills are essential. Personal experience of disability would be an asset and, ideally, the postholder will have personal or professional experience of organising support arrangements for people with disabilities. The postholder should also have a commitment to equal opportunities in employment practice and service provision.

Application form/details: The Welfare Secretary, SIA, Newpoint House, 76 St. James Lane, London N10 3DF (tel: 081 444 2121). Informal enquiries - call Gerry Zarb or Mike Oliver on 081 316 9390/9588.

Closing date for applications is 15th March 1991.

SIA positively welcomes applications from disabled people and we make every effort to meet individual needs.

GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AND

## WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Access Officer for the Disabled

Scale SO1/2 Salary Range £14,160 - £16,476

Plus Essential User Car Allowance

We are currently looking to appoint an Access Officer to promote the access needs of people with disabilities within the Great Yarmouth and Waveney Districts.

The post, which will be for a fixed term of two years, has arisen as a joint initiative by the two Authorities. Although Waveney District Council will be the employing Authority, you will divide your time equally between the two Councils.

Your responsibilities will be:

- to work closely with people with disabilities and local groups and access issues
- to increase awareness of the needs and wishes of people with disabilities
- to promote the creation of an accessible environment in which people with disabilities are able to play a full and active part, assisting in removal of physical and attitudinal barriers
- to provide practical and detailed advice to both Councils on access issues

As well as an in-depth understanding of the needs of disabled persons, you will need:

- good organisational and communicative skills
- the ability to act with initiative, innovation and vision with the minimum of supervision
- the skills to develop Community based Council wide policies

If you are interested and would like to know more about the post, please ring Gail Bowering on (0502) 523103 for an informal chat.

For an application form and information pack, please either write to the Personnel Division, Waveney District Council, Town Hall, High Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1HS or telephone (0502) 588444 (24 hour answer-phone).

The closing date for applications is Monday, 11th March 1991.



## THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

### ALPHA DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH OFFICER - WALES REGION

Scale 5 £11,241-£12,747 pa

Alpha Services have a crucial role in The Spastic Society Regional structure. The Alpha Advisory Committee through a network of Alpha Development and Research Officers and local Committees is involved in the development of services which affect the needs and wishes of people with disabilities.

A vacancy exists in the Wales region and applications are now invited from people with physical disabilities preferably due to Cerebral Palsy for this challenging post. The post will involve considerable travelling, evening and weekend work and periods away from home. The post will be based at the Wales Regional Office, St Mellons., Cardiff.

**Informal enquiries would be welcome. For further details contact Paul Price, Regional Services Manager on (0222) 797706. Application forms may be obtained from Gill Rivers on (0222) 797706. They should be returned to: The Spastics Society, 3 Links Court, Links Business Court, St Mellons, Cardiff CF3 0SP.**

Closing date Monday 18 March 1991.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY

## HOLIDAYS

Continued from page 20.

### WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE

Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. For more information ring 081-459 1324 evenings.

### WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE holiday bungalows

Two luxury bungalows, purpose-built to accommodate wheelchairs with stunning country views, 1.5 miles from beautiful beaches. Fully equipped fitted kitchen with washing machine, tumble dryer, grill, built-in oven, microwave, hob, fridge. Large bathroom with handrails and special showerchair, three large bedrooms (bedblocks and monkey-pole available) sleeping up to six people. We have the "Tourism for All" symbol. For brochure: Hen Ysgol Holiday Homes, Rhoscolyn, Isle of Anglesey, LL65 2RQ. Tel: (0407) 741593.

### SPEY VALLEY, INVERNESS-SHIRE.

Self catering unit in quiet village, sleeps 6. Family with disabled child welcome. Wheelchair friendly. Joan McAdam, Bothan Airigh, Insh, Kingussie PH21 1NT. Tel: (0540) 661051.

### APARTMENTS for the DISABLED

Beautiful St. Ives, Cornwall. Ideal for Individual, or En-bloc (Society?) Purchase. Full Details from Developer. Tel or Fax: 0736 793321.

Spacious modern 8-berth caravan owned by Felixstowe Society For the Handicapped (affiliated to The Spastics Society). Has ramp up to double entrance doors and the wc/shower room is suitable for wheelchair users. For details contact Miss J Wood, 50 High Road East, Felixstowe IP11 9PU. Tel: (0394) 283794.

BRYN MEIRION GUEST HOUSE, Amlwch Road, Benllech, Anglesey, Gwynedd, LL74 8SR. Tel: 0248 853118

Family run guest house, situated on a superb coastal site with panoramic views. Has been adapted along with the landscaped gardens to cater for wheelchair user. TV lounge, dining room and en-suite bedrooms on the ground floor. Stair lift to two en-suite bedrooms on the first floor overlooking the sea. Special diets catered for. Various aids available on request. Open all year. Ample car parking. There is always a warm welcome at Bryn Meirion.

**HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS - RED CROSS HOUSE, INVERNESS**, offers Respite Care and Activity Holidays from March to November to adults with disabilities - from 16 years of age. A 24 hour Care Facility is provided by skilled Care Staff and Volunteers. Accommodation is single hotel standard bedrooms. Whether your requirements are for outdoor adventure or something a little quieter, why not contact us for details of what we have to offer? For further information and Holiday Brochure, please contact the Principal, Red Cross House, Mackintosh Road, Inverness IV2 3TX or telephone (0463) 234939.

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE** caravan on delightful site in the Cotswold Water Park. Sleeps 4-6. All inclusive price from £45-£95 a week. Own transport essential to fully accessible site with many facilities. Contact Brenda or Nick Baker on (0908) 670096. (Milton Keynes Council of Disabled People.)

## THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

### Senior Press Officer (c18K+car)

### Public Relations Officer (c18K+car)

Two exciting opportunities have arisen in The Spastics Society's Public Relations Department in central London.

Both posts (reporting to the Head of Public Relations, James Rye, and part of a six strong senior PR management group), require highly motivated, imaginative and creative communications professionals with a commitment also to the ideals of the largest charity in this country concerned with people with cerebral palsy, their parents and carers.

**The Senior Press Officer**, who manages two staff, is in a key front-line position and represents the Society to the news media at both national and local level. Good contacts and constructive relations with editors, producers and reporters are essential, as is the ability to spot a good news item and respond to sometimes challenging enquiries.

**The Public Relations Officer** must display all round communications skills and experience. A sharp understanding of audience, message and medium is essential, as is a calm but creative approach to the task whether large or small. The postholder manages two staff and works closely with our Graphic Design Unit.

Both posts are demanding and rewarding; both require some management experience.

The successful applicants will have the benefit of building on the outstanding contribution of the present postholders, and the strength of the high quality team they join.

For an information pack and application form, please contact Fay Holas, 071 636 5020 (x 202) or send your CV to James Rye, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Closing date for applications: 11 March, First round interviews: 13/14 March Final interviews: 21 March

We very much welcome applications from people with disabilities.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY

## Advance

an independent voluntary organisation providing services to people working with volunteers in London, seeks a

### LEAD WORKER - TRAINING

We are looking for an experienced trainer to develop training opportunities for volunteer organisers in the voluntary and statutory sectors, arrange and tutor short courses and offer consultancy to other groups working with volunteers.

**Full time, grade S02 post. Salary £15,549 + LW £1884 pa. 25 days annual leave. Closing date for applications 8 March. Interviews in April. Job descriptions and application forms obtainable from Valerie Robinson, ADVANCE, Brixton Enterprise Centre, 444 Brixton Rd. London SW9 8EJ. Tel: 071-978 8577.**

ADVANCE provides services for multi-racial London: applications welcome from under-represented groups. ADVANCE is aiming to be an Equal Opportunities employer. Wheelchair access to offices (close to Brixton Tube). This organisation is funded by the London Boroughs Grants Committee.

## Administrator

£10,866

Planet is an exciting new national project based at Harperbury Hospital, Radlett, Hertfordshire being developed by SCF and Mencap, working with disabled people to increase opportunities for play and leisure.

We are looking for an Administrator with good organisational skills, experience of word processing and setting up databases and mailing systems, to manage and co-ordinate the administration of this busy project in a friendly and resourceful way.

For further details and an application form please write to Maureen Muddell, SCF, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

Closing date: 19th March 1991.

We would welcome applications from people with disabilities.

SCF aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

Save  
the  
Children

## SYSTEMS CO-ORDINATOR

£17,433 to £18,360 inclusive

The Association has successfully implemented a Multi-user Xenix accounting system using SunAccount. In addition there are 10 Stand-alone PCs in individual departments and an Apple Mac DTP system producing leaflets, pamphlets and publicity material. We are now creating an Information Technology Unit to install a Unix network and to maintain and develop our current systems.

In order to achieve this we seek a Systems Co-ordinator to:

- Play a key role in the development and delivery of the Association's overall IT strategy;
- Develop the existing systems in response to individual and organisation needs; and

- Provide support to all the current computer users in the Association. Applicants should have a good knowledge of at least one of the systems used (Unix, MS-DOS, 'C', Apple Macs, Xenix); familiarity with some of the programs in use (SunAccounts, DataEase, Word Perfect, Smart and Aldus Pagemaker) and experience of constructing and maintaining simple data bases. The post requires good oral and communication skills and the ability to liaise with staff of all levels of computer literacy. Women, black and ethnic minority people and those with disabilities are under-represented at this level and we welcome applicants from these groups. People with registered disabilities, who meet the job specification, will be guaranteed an interview. The building is accessible to people with disabilities.

For further details, please write or telephone for an application form to The Secretary, AMA, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ. Telephone 071-222-8100. Closing date for the post is Friday, 8 March, 1991.

AMA

Association of Metropolitan Authorities

YOUR  
DISABILITY  
DOESN'T  
INTEREST US.

YOU DO

Just how equal are your opportunities?

How often have you been treated as a 'special case' when you go for a job?

Are you tired of being taken on the wrong terms and not for your skills?

Well, at Wiltshire, we seek the real you. The person with abilities, training, qualifications - whatever you have to offer as an employee.

We're a large, progressive County Council and each of our diverse departments demands good people.

So, when you approach us about a working future, don't be surprised if we disregard your disability - whatever it may be. We seek the person, the professional.

We want to talk about working together.

To find out more about using your abilities, pick up a copy of our vacancy bulletin from job centres and careers offices throughout Wiltshire. Alternatively, you can contact Zandra Letts, Recruitment and Retention Team, Personnel and Management Services, Wiltshire County Council, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JE. Telephone 0225 753641 extension 2058

OUR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY ENSURES THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WHO HAVE THE BASIC JOB REQUIREMENTS ALWAYS GET AN INTERVIEW

Wiltshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



## THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

### Alpha Development and Research Officer - West Region £11,241 - £12,747

Alpha Services have an important role in The Spastics Society's Regional structure. The Alpha Committee reports directly to the Executive Council on all policy issues concerning people with disabilities.

A network of Alpha Development and Research Officers and local committees are involved in working with users to improve services to people with disabilities.

A vacancy exists in the West Region and applications are now invited from people with physical disabilities, preferably due to Cerebral Palsy, for this challenging post. The post will involve considerable travelling, evening and weekend work and periods away from home.

The post will be based at the West Regional Office in Bristol and a lease car may be provided.

Further details and informal enquiries would be welcome and should be made to John Adams, Services Manager, Telephone Number: (0272) 276689. Application forms obtainable from Mrs Kay Fry, The West Regional Office, Canningford House, 38 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6BY

Closing date: 22 March 1991.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY

## COMMERCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### MARKETING YOUR SKILLS FOR BIRMINGHAM COMMERCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## SENIOR MARKETS OFFICER

Up to £16,476

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Informal enquiries will be welcomed by Phil Gibson, Markets Manager, or Steve Morris, Principal Markets Officer on 021 622 3452

Application forms (returnable by 22nd March, 1991) and job descriptions can be obtained by telephoning 021 622 3452 or write to: Support Services Division, Commercial Services Department, Manor House, 40 Moat Lane, Birmingham B5 5BD. Please quote ref: CSM021.

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Application forms and further details are available from Lynda Richards and Christine Baxter on 021 622 3452. Completed application forms should be returned to the Director, Birmingham City Council, Commercial Services Department, Manor House, 40 Moat Lane, Birmingham B5 5BD.



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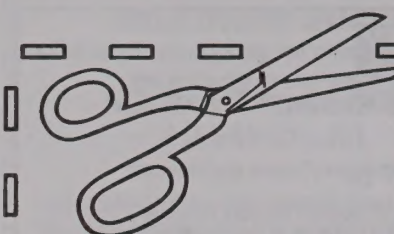
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For further details please contact I.D.A., 90-92 Upper Street, Islington N1 0NC, phone (071) 226 0137. Closing date: 11.3.91.

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We are seeking an enthusiastic person to support and develop the work of three units in our independent charity. We provide care, education and other facilities for disabled children and adults.

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Job description available from Hon. Secretary, 1a Melville Avenue, South Croydon CR2 7NZ, tel: 081-681 0460.

Closing date 31.3.91.



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An interest in and an ability to learn languages are essential. Where necessary we provide language training.

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**Requests for further details and application forms, quoting reference 2/F/F to:**

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## 'OPEN ACCESS' TO JOBS

As the largest City Council in the country and by far the biggest employer in Birmingham, we employ over 50,000 people, and regularly have a number of vacancies of all types and at all levels - manual, craft, office, technical and managerial.

The present make-up of our workforce does not reflect the community it serves. In order to help us change this, we particularly welcome more job applications from women and men with disabilities, who are under-represented in many areas of work.

Interested?... then make sure you see our weekly 'Job Search' which lists all of our current vacancies. It can be seen at all Job Centres, Neighbourhood Offices, most Public Libraries and Recreation and Community Services establishments in Birmingham. You can also obtain 'Job Search' by 'phoning 021-235 3852 during office hours. Selected vacancies also appear in every Thursday's Birmingham Evening Mail.



### Birmingham City Council

The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability.  
Job Sharers welcome, no partner necessary.

The London Boroughs Disability Resource Team serves 10 London Boroughs and other customers with a range of services and policy advice of benefit to disabled people. We currently have two administrative vacancies.

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Salary £10,251 to £11,484

You will provide the full range of administrative support to our recently restructured Information Unit, as well as fulfilling some corporate administrative functions. Experience of working in an information or library environment would be a distinct advantage.

*For application form and further details write to Ms Padma Pillay, LBDRT, First Floor, Bedford House, 125-133 Camden High Street, London NW1 7JR, or telephone on 071-482 5062.*

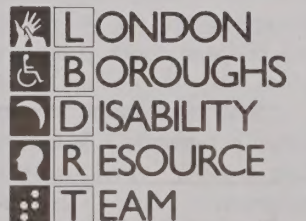
*Closing date: 8.3.91.*

*We are an equal opportunities employer and the suitability of applicants will be considered regardless of race, marital status, gender, sexuality, disability or age (up to 65). Given the nature of our work we particularly welcome applications from suitably experienced disabled people.*

## TRAINING ASSISTANT

Salary £10,251 to £11,484

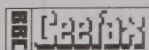
You will provide the full range of administrative support to our busy and successful Training Unit as well as fulfilling some corporate administrative functions. Experience of working in a training environment would be a distinct advantage.



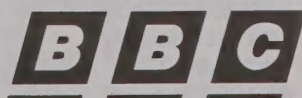
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To help ensure that people with disabilities know what's on offer, the BBC are now publishing weekly details of all vacancies open to the public. If you would like a regular copy, please write (quote ref 6427/DI) to BBC Equal Opportunities, Room 418, Henry Wood House, 3-6 Langham Place, London W1A 1AA.



Current vacancies can also be seen on CEEFAX page 696.



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A recently qualified accountant would be particularly interested for this vacancy. The successful candidate would be responsible for the development and maintenance of financial and management accounting systems in the Network Radio and Local stations in the Manchester and Cheshire region. He/she will have responsibility for the provision of financial advice and information to all managers in these areas. Sound knowledge of budgeting and management accounting systems is essential.

**Assistant Accounting & Central Services**  
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BBC CWR is looking for an enthusiastic journalist to join its busy news team. Candidates should be able to produce a strong focus for news, stories and be able to offer ideas for features in programmes. You'll need to understand the difficulties affecting listeners in both inner city and rural Warwickshire. We are looking for a reporter who should have good radio production skills and a willingness to work unsociable hours and be prepared to immerse yourself in the local community to find those exclusive stories.

You must have a current driving licence and a knowledge of the editorial area of BBC CWR is desirable. This position may be filled by a staff or contractor.



# Benefits consortium invades Number 10

The Disability Benefits Consortium mounted a week-long series of lobbies at the end of February, which took disabled people into 10 Downing Street itself in the fight for a comprehensive disability income scheme.

Disabled people from around the country converged on Number 10 to press their case with the Prime Minister, John Major, Social Security Secretary Tony Newton, and Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott.

Other targets included Conservative Party Chairman Chris Patten and Marion Roe, Chairman of the Social Security Committee.

In every case, disabled people

from the politicians' own constituencies were present.

"Disabled people are going to extraordinary lengths to get to Westminster to demand a fair level of benefits," said Ian Bruce, co-chairman of the DBC. "We hope that we can persuade the Government to listen."

★ RADAR opened another front by joining with the Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Irish disability organisations to launch a Know Your Rights campaign. Their new leaflet, *Community Living: Your Rights Now*, will arm disabled people with the information to claim all their entitlements from local authorities.



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The campaigning newspaper for people with all kinds of disabilities



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## Bed, breakfast and shame

Elderly people in some homes are "routinely humiliated" by having to wash, dress and use commodes in public, according to a new report published in January. And staff attitudes are mostly to blame.

*Not Such Private Places* was produced by the charity Counsel and Care for the Elderly following a survey of 114 homes in London.

Although some frail and dependent people could not be left alone, the report said, such restrictions were routinely applied to all residents. The design of homes also played a part in des-

troying privacy, with small homes often the worst offenders.

But it was staff attitudes which had the worst effect. They often entered rooms without knocking, or entered without waiting for a reply, and 24 per cent of homes expected residents to use commodes in full view of others.

The report concluded: "The indignity of having to use a commode in front of another person with whom you have no acquaintance cannot be overstated."

People on benefits fared worse than those who paid privately. "Poorer residents are frequently priced out of private space. We know many instances of residents obliged to move to shared rooms because they could no longer afford to pay the premium for privacy."

Among the report's recommendations are:

- phasing out shared rooms
- locks on bathrooms and toilets
- training care staff in how to uphold privacy
- giving residents room keys.

*Not Such Private Places*, £5, Counsel and Care, Twyman House, 16 Bonny Street, London NW1 9PG.

● Elderly people in homes are in financial trouble because benefits are too low to pay the fees, according to a new report by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux. (£3, tel: 071-833 2181). And the Labour Party claimed last month that half of homes will turn away people who cannot make up the difference between benefits and charges.

## Disability Now

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